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# THE TIMES

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MONDAY JANUARY 20 1997

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## Brown aims for two-year freeze on spending

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

GORDON BROWN will today announce a two-year clampdown on public spending under Labour and warn the unions that the prolonged squeeze on the pay of six million state sector employees will go on.

The Shadow Chancellor, delivering his most austere message yet to fellow Labour politicians, union chiefs and local government leaders, is to reveal that a Labour government would freeze overall public spending for two years at the levels announced by Kenneth Clarke in the November Budget.

The totals will stay fixed at £266 billion for 1997-9 and £273 billion for 1998-9. Labour will use that fact to try to blunt the Conservative charge that it would inevitably raise taxes. In an unprecedented move that will remove an early potential source of conflict for a Blair administration, he will say that this year's annual spending review, in which ministers compete to carve the spending cake

Under the Brown plan every spending minister will be expected to justify every item in their budgets, making savings in the low priority areas and redirecting them to frontline needs. His decision not to hold a formal spending review this year and instead to accept the overall figure planned by the Government for 1998-9 means that the long-predicted "bloodbath", in which Labour ministers were supposed to fight each other for resources the moment a Labour government was elected, will not apparently take place.

The arguments may, however, be stored up for later in the life of the Government when priorities as between departments rather than within them are changed. If Labour wins, Mr Brown's first Budget is being planned for six to eight weeks after the general election.

He will today promise a firm but fair approach to public sector pay, saying: "Just as we will resist every other unreasonable demand on the public purse, we will resist unreasonable public sector pay demands." There will be no extra money from the Government and pay increases must come from the tough limits on every department.

Mr Brown will say that Labour's guiding principles on spending are that public money should be spent efficiently and provide value and that it should be spent wisely in line with its priorities. Mr Brown is making it clear that the windfall tax on the privatised utilities will take part of his first Budget. His advisers say that there are no legal obstacles to its introduction.

Trade union reaction last night to Mr Brown's plan suggested that the Labour leadership will not face a backlash this side of an election. However, senior figures warned of the danger of struggles if an incoming Labour government takes a rougher line than the Conservatives in restraining public sector pay.

Peter Riddell, page 20

to be scrapped. Instead individual ministers will be charged with carrying out an overhaul of their own department's budget to cut spending on non-essential areas and concentrate it on meeting Labour's stated priority aims.

Although the overall departmental spending limits will stay, Mr Brown will allow ministers to change priorities as soon as they can identify them. In addition, Mr Brown is to announce the EDX committee chaired by the Chancellor, which carries out the annual spending discussions, will embark on a root-and-branch review of Britain's public spending system designed to shift resources to high priority areas and reshape the distribution of spending into the next century. The EDX committee, on which senior Cabinet ministers serve, will also monitor the individual departmental reviews.

Mr Brown's announcements, to businesses at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London, mark his most striking attempt yet both to play down expectations and to convince the electorate and the City that his tough approach to spending and tax is serious.

Aides believe that his acceptance of the Government's spending figures will convince voters that Labour has no need to raise personal taxes. He will say: "These are the figures on which departments are already planning and should continue to plan." Labour councils across the country will get the same message.

Archbishop takes a sabbatical

BY RUTH GLEDHILL  
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

AFTER 500 speeches, 43 foreign trips, 44 consecrations of bishops and 220 television broadcasts, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has given up his duties for two months.

Managers and stockbrokers who need a break take sabbaticals, while vicars and bishops who have preached one too many sermons go on retreat. At least, that is the general view.

But after a punishing schedule

over the last few months the Archbishop has taken a leaf out of the modern manager's handbook and is taking a two-month sabbatical.

Dr Carey flew to Washington DC on Saturday for four weeks of rest and recuperation during which time, aides say, he plans to read, reflect, pray and possibly start work on a book.

However, attempts to keep his precise whereabouts secret have not been entirely successful. His chaplain, the Reverend Colin Fletcher, said: "We have not

wanted to publicise where he is but lots of people have already discovered he's going to be there and have invited him to do things like speaking."

Dr Carey will be in Washington

for four weeks and will spend the last three weeks of his sabbatical at Lambeth Palace.

The sabbatical year dates from the earliest church history. It was established in Mosaic Jewish tradition by the command in Deuteronomy that one year in seven should be a "sabbath" when

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# Tories to remove education authorities' powers



Booth to represent union at High Court

TORY election strategists are to target Labour-dominated local education authorities, with manifesto commitments designed to undermine Tony Blair's stance over the central issue of school standards.

Measures to be considered at next week's Chequers summit on the Tory manifesto would strip town halls of their veto over school admissions and send "hit squads" into the worst-performing authorities. Schools would be given control over virtually all of their budgets, leaving authorities to sell their services to survive.

Councils would share responsibility for planning secondary school places with a quango. This would remove an obstacle to John Major's drive for selective schooling.

Mr Blair has placed educa-

tion at the head of his party's priorities, accusing the Tories of failing to tackle under-achievement in schools. But primary school league tables to be published before the election will give ministers ammunition for a fresh assault on Labour's record in local government. As in secondary schools, the worst results will be found in Labour-controlled authorities.

This morning, the National Association of Head Teachers begins a High Court challenge

to the publication of the tables. The union will be represented by the barrister, Cherie Booth, QC, Mr Blair's wife, who will argue on their behalf that the tables are unfair because the results take no account of absence or the number of children excused from taking last summer's tests because of special educational needs.

If the action succeeds, the tables will not appear before the election. When they are published, however, certain inner-London boroughs and

northern authorities are likely to offer easy targets for ministers anxious to blame low standards on Labour.

Gillian Shepherd, the Education and Employment Secretary, has already introduced inspections of local authorities. But the Education Bill, which completed its committee stage last week, contains no sanctions against authorities deemed unsatisfactory.

A re-elected Tory government would create the concept of a "failing" authority to parallel the system for schools.

In cases of failure, the Funding Agency for Schools would take over key functions, such as responsibility for admissions policies and planning new places.

The agency already has a "school improvement unit".

which has used consultants to tackle problems in six grant-maintained schools. Its role could be extended to cover failing authorities. The committee drafting the education section of the Tory manifesto has stopped short of recommending that all schools become grant-maintained, preferring no sanctions against authorities deemed unsatisfactory.

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However, some Conservatives still hope a more radical

programme will emerge from the Chequers meeting. Right-wingers have been lobbying for vouchers to be introduced for mainstream schooling, and the supporters of opting-out want local authorities to lose their responsibility for secondary schools.

Sir Robert Balchin, the chairman of the Grant Maintained Schools Foundation, said: "Self-government is impossible while local education authorities continue."

Sir Robert, who is also a member of the Funding Agency, predicted that authorities would circumvent the regulations by insisting that schools bought packages of services.

Labour said the plans were at odds with Mrs Shepherd's instructions to authorities to be more active in raising

school standards. She told education officers last Friday that she was considering giving them powers to issue formal warnings to schools in danger of failure. If there was no improvement, authorities would take back control of the school from its governors.

A Labour spokesman said the party had made the original proposal for inspections of education authorities, but did not consider formal sanctions necessary because annual council elections left power with the electorate. Labour had proposed a limit of £50 per pupil for administrative costs, but ministers had taken no action in the Education Bill.

Ballot 97, page 6  
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## Rifkind tells Kohl to spell out EU limits

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MALCOLM RIFKIND yesterday challenged Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, to spell out the limits he would place on moves towards a European superstate.

The Foreign Secretary told the Chancellor and other leaders to prove their claim that they were not federalists. "I think the time has come really to ask them to indicate what are the limits of the integration that they seek," he said. "What would be the European Union that they would like to see in 10 or 20 years' time. In what way would that fall short of federalism?"

His comments were the first public demand from a Cabinet minister for pro-European leaders to set out their precise ambitions for the future of the Union. Pressing the need for a flexible European Union in which some countries could integrate more closely while others opted out, Mr Rifkind insisted that all member states must approve any move allowing the creation of an inner core. Without unanimity, it could not be right for core countries to have access to the EU budget, the European Court and the resources of the

European Commission to support those initiatives.

Mr Rifkind told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend* that he had privately urged Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, to spell out his country's long-term objectives, but it had never really been debated publicly.

His demands came on the eve of a Brussels meeting in which Britain expects support for its demand that there should be a flexible system backed by unanimous voting. British ministers claim to have the support of up to five countries for their plan. Paris and Bonn want a "flexibility chapter" written into the Treaty of Amsterdam in June that prevents a single country vetoing a flexible system.

Mr Rifkind said: "The issue of flexibility is probably the most important issue that's being discussed at the inter-governmental conference."

John Major believes that the flexibility issue will be the key to breaking the deadlock on future development of the Union. Among the main policy areas for greater flexibility are defence, immigration and asylum issues.

Police and soldiers search a field near Warminster yesterday in the hunt for Zoe Evans, missing for nine days.

## Police dig in garden at Zoe's home

POLICE began digging in the front garden of Zoe Evans's home yesterday as prayers were said in local churches for the missing nine-year-old (Adrian Lee writes). Witnesses said that police officers used a spade to dig a strip 8ft long and 2ft wide in the garden of her home in Warminster, Wiltshire.

A police spokeswoman said the action was part of a systematic search of the house and surrounding area. She added that items had been found, but could not say whether they were connected with the

child's disappearance until they had been identified.

Police asked for more time to question the missing girl's parents about her suspected murder. On Saturday night, magistrates agreed a warrant extending the time that her mother, Paula Evans, 28, and stepfather Miles Evans, 23, could be detained for interview. This morning police must apply for a new warrant if the couple have not been charged or released.

Officers are investigating hundreds of possible sightings of Zoe, last seen nine

days ago. Over the weekend they questioned 6,000 people in Warminster. Shoppers were shown a video of a child walking behind a man and a woman through the town's Three Horseshoes mall — thought to be the last sighting of her. A 15ft billboard bearing her picture was towed through the streets.

Inspector Geoff Hicks admitted hopes of finding the girl alive were fading. "Given the length of time since her disappearance, I am afraid we are having to prepare ourselves for the worst."

**Howard defends bugging legislation**

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MICHAEL HOWARD insists that his controversial Police Bill strikes the right balance between protecting civil liberties and fighting serious crime. The Bill, which faces a close vote in the House of Lords tonight, would give police the right to break into private property and plant bugging devices without authorisation.

In *The Times*, the Home Secretary says that the legislation would ensure that the police were accountable. All buggings would be reviewed by a "commissioner", probably a High Court judge, who would investigate complaints.

Senior lawyers and judges have attacked the Bill as a threat to civil liberties and in a letter to *The Times* today, eight senior members of the medical profession voice concern over possible infringement of the confidential relationship between doctor and patient if surgeries were bugged. Opposition divisions mean Mr Howard has a good chance of averting defeat.

Michael Howard, page 20  
Letters, page 21

**Ashdown moves to stamp out dissent**

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

PADDY ASHDOWN moved to head off growing dissent within his party yesterday as a Liberal Democrat MP claimed that his leader's ambitions of a Cabinet post were driving his crusade for closer ties with Labour, with whom he is having talks on a wide range of constitutional reforms.

David Alton, in a newspaper article, warned him against putting his own hopes of ministerial office in a Blair-led government ahead of the interests of the country and his own party. With his fellow MP Chris Davies, he said Mr Ashdown would not win party support for any changes to the voting system that fell short of full proportional representation.

Mr Ashdown, interviewed on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*, strongly rejected the suggestion that his approach was about personal ambition and underlined that he would not agree to anything less than proportional representation.

He said that Mr Alton's article is a travesty of all the things that I stand for, of all the things I'm trying to achieve.

## Tory MPs attack activists

Tory MPs criticised some of the party's most senior officials and activists for secretly considering changes to the way a leader is elected. According to BBC's *On the Record* programme, 25 chairmen and senior agents met last weekend and discussed changes which would reduce the role of MPs and give 20 per cent of the vote to the executive committee of the National Union, the party's voluntary wing. Peter Temple-Morris said the union was behaving as if the general election were already lost.

## Cardinal's schools view

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, called yesterday, on BBC Radio 4's *Sunday programme*, for greater public spending in education and on smaller classes. The leader of Britain's Catholics, who recently sparked controversy by condemning abortion, insisted that smaller classes were better for pupils. A report last year by Ofsted, the schools watchdog, said that, outside the early years of schooling, class size made little difference to educational achievement.

## IRA mortars miss

A woman motorist and two police officers escaped when the IRA fired two mortars at an RUC patrol on the outskirts of Downpatrick, Co Down, on Saturday night. An RUC spokesman said the mortars missed their target. The woman, whose car had been caught in the blast, was treated in hospital for shock. Ronnie Flanagan, the Chief Constable of the RUC, condemned the attack and told BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* that with it, the IRA had demonstrated total disregard for the safety of the public.

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## Gun dealers seek help

Two hundred firearms dealers will meet with receivers in London today for discussions on compensation over the proposed ban on handguns. Most traders are resigned to the legislation which will outlaw all handguns above .22 calibre and force smaller weapons to be kept at secure gun clubs. Many businesses have already folded and the remainder are intent on persuading the Government to compensate retailers for loss of premises, stock and trade. The meeting will be at Westminster Central Hall.

## Thunderflash alert

Army bomb disposal experts were called to the house of royal protection officer Michael Coulton by police investigating the murder of his wife Patricia. Officers searching the house in Woking, Surrey, were believed to have found a thunderflash, an explosive device used in military training. The incident on Saturday afternoon came just hours after Mr Coulton, 52, was remanded in custody by Reading magistrates after being charged with a number of firearms offences.

## Army barracks for sale

Chelsea Barracks, home of the Coldstream Guards, is for sale and could be the first of many army bases to be privatised or redeveloped to raise money. The 37-acre Cavalry Barracks in Hounslow and the Royal Military Academy site at Woolwich are also for sale. The Ministry of Defence has decided that all three should be offered to the commercial sector under the Government's Private Finance Initiative. The ministry said security and operational needs would be paramount.

## Archbishop in US for sabbatical

Continued from page 1  
land should remain fallow and all slaves and debtors freed.

Since being elevated from Bath and Wells in 1991, Dr Carey has visited the Falklands, Turkey, Germany, Papua New Guinea, America, Malta, Kenya, Tanzania and about 30 other countries.

He has been to Rome twice to meet the Pope, has written nearly 200 articles and formally visited 20 of the 43 dioceses in the Church of England. That does not include the one-off speeches and sermons he gives in brief visits to other dioceses, which have been too numerous to count.

On top of all this, he has been scrupulous in fulfilling

his *ex officio* engagements as Archbishop, in attending the House of Bishops meetings, diocesan synods and general synods. He has hosted dinners, receptions and lunches and delivered hundreds of sermons. He has also maintained an active involvement with 300 charities and institutions he is involved with.

Dr Carey is not the first Archbishop to take a sabbatical. His predecessor, Lord Runcie, also took one of similar length about five years into his job. Dozens of clergy take sabbaticals, with the agreement of their diocesan bishop.

He is usually up and working on speeches by 6.30; says mass daily at 7.30; and normally works straight through the evenings, usually until after 10pm, reading the latest publications on theology, politics and other issues. He has few weekends off.

He might take the occasional afternoon to go to a football match but he has a punishing schedule. It seems to go with the territory," a spokesman said.

According to some insiders, sabbaticals are becoming increasingly common as the days when clerics life consisted of gentle reading in their study and a sermon once a week recede.

The Archbishop was backed by Charles Handy, an expert on the world of work, who took a sabbatical to write his first book, *Understanding Organisations*, in 1983.

Professor Handy, who is currently writing *The Hungry Spirit*, a book which emphasises the importance of the spiritual life, said: "In today's world, we all work too hard and it is very important to get away, not just to rest but to clear our minds and look at things from a greater distance. A sabbatical is not a holiday, it is a period of structured reflection."

While Dr Carey is away, the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, will take the weight. Certain internal matters have been delegated to Canon Fletcher while the diocese of Canterbury is in the hands of the Bishop of Dover, the Right Reverend Richard Llewellyn.

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MR3

Snub to divorced vicar who married his curate

## Rebel parishioners hold service in village hall

By EMMA WILKINS

A GROUP of parishioners who are boycotting their village church were celebrating yesterday after their first rival prayer meeting proved overwhelmingly more popular than a service conducted by the local vicar.

There was standing room only at the village hall in Ropley, near Winchester, where 120 parishioners worshipped together for the first time since the Rev Royston Such offended the congregation by divorcing his wife and marrying his curate.

Just a few hundred yards away at the parish church of St Peter, 24 people gathered for matins with Mr Such. He was accompanied to matins in the Norman parish church by his wife, the Rev Tana Riviere. Her curate's licence was removed 10 months ago.

Mr Such, 49, a former solicitor, has rejected calls for his resignation from parishioners and the Bishops of Basingstoke and Southampton. A move to force him from his post under the incumbents (Vacation of Benefices) Measure failed last month when the Bishop of Winchester, the Right Rev Michael Scott-Joynt, decided not to hold an inquiry.

The rival service, which could become a regular monthly event, was led by Humphrey Carr, a solicitor who lives in the village. "I



Mr Such and his wife heading for church yesterday

must stress that it is not our purpose to be divisive or to provoke. We are not trying to set up a parallel church in this benefice." Mr Carr told the prayer meeting. "If the need is perceived, and there is sufficient interest and support, then we may be able to arrange more services. I am very pleased to see so many friends and supporters here."

Barbara Longlands, former organist and chourmestress at St Peter's, played the piano during the prayer service. "I don't go to the church any more. We used to have a good congregation before the Rev Such arrived but people would rather have their own service than go to St Peter's now. I have never known such trouble in all the 23 years I have lived here," she said.

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the bishop is a clever man so perhaps he will find a way to sort this out. It's up to him now," he added. "It was a tremendous service and so lovely to see all the familiar faces from the old congregation. We felt we all wanted to worship together, but not with the Rev Such because we were getting the wrong kind of leadership. I felt I couldn't, in all honour, stay on as churchwarden under those circumstances," he added.

Mr Goddard said problems with Mr Such began before he divorced his first wife Elizabeth, the mother of his five children, to marry his curate in 1995. "It's not just about his remarriage. He was always rather autocratic. He made all sorts of changes without any consultation," Mr Goddard said.

The bishop has described tensions between the Rev Such and his parishioners in Ropley, Bishops Sutton, and West Tisted as "a wretched pastoral situation" but rejected referring the matter to a tribunal on the grounds that it would be costly, divisive and destructive to all parties.

Complaints and letters about Mr Such began in 1994 but it was only when he married his second wife in a private ceremony 80 miles away from the parish in August 1995 that matters came to a head and the Bishop of Winchester looked into the matter.



Alexander McQueen is applauded by models after his Paris show

## Eastender triumphs with Paris collection

By HELEN BROWN

THE first *haute couture* show by Alexander McQueen for the established house of Givenchy proved beyond doubt last night that British fashion designers are now leading the world.

The "East End lad" was always an unlikely choice for such a prestigious house but the gamble has paid off. Taking over from fellow British designer Galliano, who has moved to Dior, McQueen pushed the boundaries of fashion to its limits with a collection based on Greek mythology.

His theatrical, antiquity-inspired collection resembled a costume ball and was supported by a bizarre spectacle of large hairdos and gold-tinted breasts spilling from rib-crushing corsets.

Outlandish imagery including minotaur nose rings and Pegasus feathered wings crafted into corsets shocked the more conservative French but enthralled the more artistic-minded Americans and British.

The more artistic sensibilities of British designers are sometimes hard to translate into the staid world of *haute couture*, where dresses can cost up to £40,000. The customer of old for Givenchy has long left the house since the advent of John Galliano last year but a new, more adventurous customer is anticipated on the horizon.

These *haute couture* collections are more an exercise in publicity to promote the lucrative perfume side of the fashion business, but this is a gauge that McQueen has done his job. This should signify the sweet smell of success for McQueen. It is far from Savile Row, where he nurtured his ability as a brilliant tailor, to Paris where his show returned Givenchy to the cutting edge of fashion.

## Police fear pensioner was killed for £200

By A STAFF REPORTER

POLICE have begun a murder inquiry into a pensioner's death two weeks after concluding that she died from natural causes.

The investigation was re-opened after the family of Daphne Cole, 85, expressed concern over pension money being missing. She had picked up £200 from a post office near her home in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, two days before her body was found.

Detectives now believe that Mrs Cole was strangled. A pathologist's report had said she died from a heart attack and the effects of bronchial pneumonia. A second post-mortem examination, by a Home Office pathologist, found injuries that were inconsistent with death by natural causes. These findings were supported by Dr Ian West of Guy's Hospital, central London, a leading pathologist.

Mrs Cole was last seen alive on Saturday January 4, when one of her grandsons took her shopping. The next day, neighbours contacted Mrs Cole's family when they saw that curtains were open and the lights still on.

Her body was found by her daughter, Verna Hamilton, and her husband. Police said the kitchen door was unlocked and the television on. A tray was by the body.

Detective Superintendent Geoff Munns, of Suffolk Police, said: "This is an appalling crime. We can only assume that Mrs Cole was murdered in her own home for a few hundred pounds."

West Suffolk Hospitals' NHS Trust, who employed the pathologist who carried out the original post-mortem examination, said it would be reviewing the matter.



The scrapped 19p stamp, top, and the 41p version



Football fantasy was stamped out

IT WAS to have been the pinnacles of Roy of the Rovers' glittering career. The Melechester Rovers striker would have been the star of a set of stamps to commemorate England winning the Euro '96 Championship.

But Gareth Southgate's penalty miss in the semifinal against Germany meant not only England's exit, but also the scrapping of the stamps.

Because no living person other than a member of the Royal Family can appear on a stamp, the honour befalls Roy of Melechester Rovers, a comic-strip hero for more than 30 years, to capture the occasion.

The first stamp was to show Roy being called up for the tournament. Another would have depicted him scoring Alan Shearer's goal against Switzerland. However, he may yet appear if England win the World Cup next year.

Football, page 25, 28-31

## Horlick takes a break to unwind

By CAROL MIDDLETON

THE City fund manager Nicola Horlick took her first break yesterday since being suspended by Morgan Grenfell on Tuesday, and spent the day with her three youngest children.

Mrs Horlick, a mother of five, said she had been unable to eat or sleep since starting her whirlwind campaign against the German-owned bank. "I have been a bit overwrought but it's a great way to lose weight."

As she bundled Serena, 6, Rupert, 3, and Antonia, seven months, into the car, she said: "Today I am trying to have a bit of rest, but tomorrow I'll be spending all day at the offices of my lawyer, Herbert Smith." Asked if she regretted the media circus, she said: "No, because I'm trying to get justice done. I believe I should be reinstated or be given proper compensation, but I would like my job back."

She denied that she had ambitions to become a Labour MP, insisting that reports in the *Express on Sunday* were "rather exaggerated". "I don't belong to any political party and I have expressed no political views," she said. "A lot of my clients are local authority clients, so it would be wrong for me to do so."

Mrs Horlick has been accused of trying to poach staff from Morgan Grenfell for a rival company. Yesterday was the first time she had been seen in public without her trademark red lipstick, string of pearls and black business suit. "The idea that I have loads of labels is ludicrous," Mrs Horlick said.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20  
Lost status, page 46  
£500,000 lost, page 48

## Backroom boy's low fidelity debut goes straight to No 1

By CAITLIN MORAN

A RECLUSE computer musician last night became the fourth person to have a debut single enter the charts at No 1, with a record he made in a makeshift studio in his bedroom.

Indian-born Jyoti Mishra was hardly greeting his phenomenal success in traditional pop-star style. Mishra, who recorded his runaway hit *Your Woman - Abort, Retry, Fail* under the name White Town, using a £30 microphone, remained shut away indoors after receiving the news at his mock-Tudor semi-detached house on an estate in Derby and refused to comment.

The success follows that of the Beatles' Anthology series which featured scratchy, ram-

shackle home demos of some of their most popular songs and encouraged public taste to become more attuned to low production values. White Town's hit could hardly be more amateur - Mishra, 28, worked alone with an eight track machine in his bedroom at his parents' home.

He did not originally plan to release the track, but was badgered by his girlfriend into having a handful of copies pressed. With the last of his money, he sent copies to five radio presenters.

They ignored it, but Radio 1's Mark Radcliffe started playing it on his show every night. Mishra had a deal with Chrysalis Records. White Town is

the most successful in a growing list of artists who prefer to keep things cheap.

Since the explosion of dance music in the late Eighties, stars on *Top of the Pops* are less likely to be a hard-touring, hard-drinking gang who have spent thousands of pounds on production; and more likely to be a couple of mates with some fairly cheap computers, who released the record on a small, self-financed budget.

Mishra, who taught himself to play guitar listening to Buddy Holly records, and was rejected by nearly every record company in Britain before getting his music into the charts in his own way, is merely the first of the No 1 bedroom superstars.

# Sheraton on Sale.

Four more weeks only.

January is sale time across Europe. And Sheraton is no exception. With our Hot Winter Rates, you can shop the stores for bargains, while enjoying bargain rates on your room. What's more, you get a lovely gift in your room, a complimentary bottle of wine when you dine in our restaurant, and our companion stays free. Choose from the hotels featured here, or any of the 40 other desirable ITT Sheraton locations in Europe. Reduced rates apply through February 15, 1997. Call us now toll-free: 0800-353535 or contact your travel professional. Ask for Sheraton's Hot Winter Rates.

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# Letter bombs turn British neo-Nazis into terrorists

THE interception of letter bombs destined for targets in Britain marks a dramatic escalation in the tactics used by the extreme right-wing organisation, Combat 18.

The British-based neo-Nazi group is a shadowy alliance of a few hundred members who have previously confined their activities mainly to intimidation, rather than terrorism. Authorities in Denmark, where seven people in their early 20s have been charged with planning an international letter bombing campaign aimed at targets in London, now fear more concerted international hostilities. There is growing evidence that the

British group, which is known to include violent figures, has extended its links with neo-Nazis in Denmark, Belgium, France, The Netherlands, Austria and eastern Europe.

Although Denmark has only a very small neo-Nazi movement, the country's liberal freedom of speech laws have made it a haven for foreign extremists. German neo-Nazis forced to close down printing houses in their own country have moved a few miles across the frontier into Denmark, operating from small towns and villages.

Formed in 1992, Combat 18 has been linked with a number of arson attacks and

assaults on opponents. At least 12 of their victims have need hospital treatment, including two women. In the past two years, members have attempted to take over a highly profitable Nazi music industry, which has led to internecine violence.

The number 18 in the organisation's title stands for the first and eighth letters of the

alphabet, the initials of Adolf Hitler. The letter bomb technique is borrowed directly from neo-Nazi groups in Austria, where gangs, sometimes operating from across the border in Germany, have been targeting foreigners, gypsies or liberal politicians. Exact instructions on how to put together a letter bomb, including electronic circuits, the

right dosage of nitroglycerine and the correct size of detonator, have been in circulation for some time among Europe's neo-Nazi groups.

In Britain, supporters launched a newspaper called *Tiegel*. It has been used to identify anti-racism campaigners, left-wing opponents and journalists who have attacked them. Addresses have been published and a number of homes have received hate mail or had bricks thrown at windows. Combat 18 has also used the Internet to make contact with groups in Europe.

Yesterday Monika Akabusi, German-born wife of the former British Olympic runner

come through. My children have been turned away because of their colour."

Mrs Akabusi, who has lived in England for 12 years, said: "It is getting worse in Germany. My family there have told us it is not the time to come to visit because of the racial problems." She said her husband, also 38, had received letters from black people telling him he had let them down by marrying a white woman. "It works both ways," she said.

Derek Redmond, another former British Olympic athlete and the husband of the swimmer Sharron Davies, has spoken in the past of receiving hate mail. "We have

been told there are extremist magazines which have had pictures of Sharron, and me with guns to our heads."

One of the most celebrated victims of racism in Germany is the tennis player Boris Becker, who is married to a black woman, Barbara Fehlhaber. The couple are considering leaving Germany because they fear they are being targeted by neo-Nazis.

The German postal service has long been alerted to report suspicious packages mailed from Denmark. But no such controls exist on mail that originates in Sweden, from where the letter bombs for Britain were to be posted.

## Tolkien wins title Lord of the Books by popular acclaim

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT AND ERICA WAGNER, LITERARY EDITOR

THE epic fantasy novel by J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*, has been voted the Book of the Century by the buying public. Many critically acclaimed names such as T.S. Eliot, Ernest Hemingway, Thomas Mann or Samuel Beckett failed to make it into the top 100 list selected by the 25,000 voters.

George Orwell's dystopian 1984 and his political satire *Animal Farm* reached second and third places respectively, followed by James Joyce's *Ulysses*, though many of those who voted for this dense novel may not actually have read it.

More than 5,000 titles were nominated in a national survey conducted in the autumn by Waterstone's, the booksellers, and Channel 4's Book Choice programme. The public was invited to suggest up to five books.

Auberon Waugh, editor of *The Literary Review*, expressed disbelief at Tolkien's win. "It's a little bit suspicious. It's like Mr Major coming out as the most popular man," he said. He suggested that the author's fans might have orchestrated a campaign, a charge rejected by Martin Grossel, university lecturer in chemistry and leading light of Oxford's Tolkien Society. Tol-



Tolkien: wrote popular epic of good and evil

kien fans "are not that sort of people", he said.

Mr Waugh felt that although Orwell's support was genuine, votes for *Ulysses*, whatever its merits, were "totally bogus". He suggested that the votes either came from English literature students or from people who were showing off.

Germaine Greer noted: "As a 57-year-old lifelong teacher of English, I might be expected to regard this particular list of books of the century with dismay. I do." Good writers such as Somerset Maugham

and J.B. Priestley were among many who had been overlooked, she added.

While Kingsley Amis made the list with *Lucky Jim*, his son Martin was omitted. Some bestselling authors such as Jeffrey Archer did not make it.

Ross Shimmon, chief executive of the Library Association, said: "It seems to me a very sound selection. It's quite interesting that it's very different from the public lending rights figures."

Jung Chang's *Wild Swans*, an account of three generations of Chinese women surviving the nationalist and communist regimes, is the highest non-fiction entry at No 11. It was one of only 13 books on the list by women.

Alan Giles, managing director of Waterstone's, said: "Memories fade and therefore there's an over-representation of more recent writing. If we were to conduct the survey again in ten years, I wonder how many of those would still be on the list."

The *Lord of the Rings* is a tale of good and evil, the story of Frodo the Hobbit's search to return the Ring of Power to its source. First published in 1954, it achieved cult status in the Sixties and has remained in print ever since. On

Booktrack's list of the top 5,000 bestsellers in Britain, *The Lord of the Rings* currently stands at No 537, selling 155 copies a week. Its author, born in 1892, was Merton Professor of English Language and Literature at Oxford, and an authority on Anglo-Saxon literature. It is perhaps the escapism which its mythology offers that has provided its enduring appeal, the same escapism that has kept Gene Roddenberry's *Star Trek* going for decades.

Malcolm Bradbury, Professor Emeritus of American Literature at the University of East Anglia, said that, while he would not consider it a great work of literature, he was not surprised at its triumph. "It has a very special cultural value," he said. "It's a book that crosses the magic line between childhood and adulthood."

*Book Choice* will focus on the survey in its programme tonight at 7.35pm.

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From crown to shroud, a royal inventory of 100,000 items is rescued from oblivion

## Richly detailed list shows Henry VIII as wealthiest monarch

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

HENRY VIII has been branded as the original shopaholic after the first study of a long-forgotten inventory of the 100,000 possessions he left behind. He is also revealed to have been the richest monarch in English history.

Henry had an income of £300,000 a year, when the next wealthiest people in the land received £6,000 a year and the average daily wage was 2½ pence. The contents of his palaces were worth a similar sum to his income as were his navy and forts and his military stores.

But perhaps even more remarkable than the catalogue of opulence is the obsessive chronicling of Henry's ordinary possessions. Cisterns for the royal toilet, chamberpots, bed ornaments, musical and scientific instruments, clocks, even stacks of used tennis balls and a chimney stick are solemnly included. Two volumes of the



Starkey: five-year task

inventory were bought by the Society of Antiquaries in 1792 with the intention of publishing and the other two are in the British Library.

The task of transcribing all four volumes of the elaborate script and indexing 18,000 entries covering more than 100,000 items has now been completed on computer by a team of scholars led by Dr David Starkey of the London School of Economics. The project, which has taken five

years, has been finished to coincide with the 450th anniversary this month of Henry's death.

Dr Starkey said: "On the one hand it shows a mad sense of order and on the other the sheer prodigious quantity of Henry's possessions. He was the original shopaholic. Everything was bought, and bought in quantity, and everything was bought to be used to give the impression of wealth."

All that the king owned when he died in 1547 was fastidiously listed on the finest linen paper by an army of scribes. As he was being succeeded by a minor, Edward VI, it was decided to assess the exact state of the royal coffers. Nothing that was Henry's, from his crown to the bandages in which he wrapped his ulcerated legs, has been missed.

The document, which took Tudor officials three years to compile and which lay neglected for more than four centuries, is expected to revolutionise study of the period and to give a boost to the market for 16th century artefacts.

Where Henry was once criticised for squandering his income, the new research claims his hoarding endowed the Tudor and Stuart dynasties. His riches make those of modern monarchs look distinctly modest. The 18,000 entries dwarf the 5,000 of which Charles I's inventory consists.

The list starts where one might expect: "I item: the kinges crowne of golde". Then

comes "I item: the kinges crowne of golde". Then



Henry holding court with his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, depicted by the Victorian artist Sir John Gilbert

the reader is led through a

palace by palace tour of

Henry's jewels, plate, tapestries, cannon, armour, even

horses and his entire navy.

"It is staggering wealth,"

Dr Starkey said. "The only

other king to come even close

was Richard II. It was unbelieveable acquisitiveness with

the purpose of displaying an

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It is generally believed

that Henry squandered his

wealth. But what we now

realise is that what he left was

a major achievement. He left

an endowment to the mona-

stery which lasted 100 years."

Browsing through the inven-

tory one comes across

references to such glories as

"two olde roten trussing

sheets full of holes" and "one

set of chessemens of wood in

a box of wood fourre of them

being brokin".

Many of the items, includ-

ing Henry's crown, have dis-

appeared. The collar Henry is

wearing in Holbein's cartoon

in the National Portrait Gal-

lery has also vanished. But

scholars are delighted to have

a full description: "Item: a

coller set with IX large balaces

(broches) the Xth balace stand-

ing in the top of the Kings

crowne made against the

coronation with X frier

knottes in every knot XVI

times."

The inventory presents the

prospect of "finding" Henry's

possessions. Already a small

gold spatha in the Victoria

and Albert Museum, previously

believed to be a fasten-

ing for a costume, is listed as a

MARTIN BEDDALL

## No sweet ending for yachting survivor

By A STAFF REPORTER

CHOCOLATE companies are refusing to be associated with Tony Bullimore and the "little bit of chocolate" that helped him to survive for four days in the Southern Ocean — unless it can be proved that their product was truly the one that sustained him.

Agents for the rescued yachtsman had approached companies saying that, for £20,000, Mr Bullimore, 38, would "remember" their product as the one he used.

Mars said: "We're delighted he's been rescued, but he should tell the truth. If that includes a Mars bar, fine, but what's good for us is good for the industry and if he ate Cadbury's Diary Milk we want him to say that."

Hilary Parsons, of Nestlé, agreed that any deal had to feature the genuine article. Masters International, an agency representing sports people, had approached Nestlé mentioning that Drifter and KitKat were aboard the yacht, but "the proposal was not appealing, especially when they began to mention other companies". She added: "It would have been a nice line for Drifter had it been the brand that was eaten, but you've got to be truthful on these occasions. We're not in contact with them now."

Tony Bilbrough of Cadbury, also acknowledged that Masters International had approached his company, which had originally been interested, but only if one of its products had genuinely been used by Mr Bullimore. "It's a credibility issue," he said. "We didn't want to just buy his association. It's now been a few days since we heard from them and we're not really interested any more."

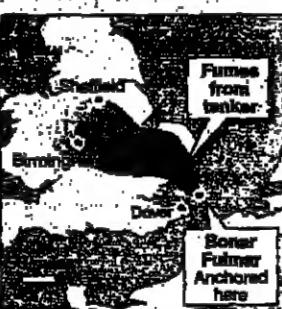
Leading article, page 21

## Whiff of the sea stinks out Middle England

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

METEOROLOGISTS were baffled yesterday by the source of strange smells wafting across the middle of Britain. They eventually concluded that unusual weather conditions were funneling petrol fumes more than 200 miles from the spot in the English Channel where two tankers had collided.

Police in Cheshire, Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Shropshire, and the West Midlands received complaints from hundreds of members of the public who said they could smell petrol fumes. Some said that the



odour was of aviation fuel.

It seems the culprit was the Bona Fulmar, a tanker that had been leaking unleaded petrol after being in a collision with the Mexican chemical tanker Tequila in fog on Saturday night. It had been an-

chored 3½ miles northeast of Dover. No one was injured.

Dover Coastguard said the spillage would not reach the English coast, as the petrol would evaporate naturally.

"There is no danger to marine wildlife or to beaches, and the danger of explosion has reduced dramatically."

Work continued yesterday on clearing up thousands of tons of petrol which split into the sea when the hull and tank of the 47,000-ton Bona Fulmar were ruptured. Salvage experts and rescue workers were pumping inert gas into the vessel's damaged tank to limit the risk of thousands of tons of petrol exploding near the

coast.

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A NUN has been forced to leave the deprived community she strived to help after her home was burgled 35 times.

Sister Josefa Norris, 53, is leaving Leigh, Greater Manchester, eight years after receiving permission from the Vatican to live there as a community worker. She set up a workshop to take young people off the streets, and a literacy scheme for adults.

Raiders recently stole her computer, containing 14 years' academic research on poverty and illiteracy. After suffering 18 burglaries in as many months, she had moved, only to be burgled again. The premises of a business she set up to employ local youths have been smashed and her car has been broken into many times.

Burglars think that because I'm well-spoken I must be wealthy," she said. "They see me as a frail old woman living alone in a house with rich pickings. In fact, I survive on invalidity benefit."

Sister Josefa, who pities the thieves, saying they may be driven to crime by the cost of drug habits, is moving to Sheffield. She will continue to pray for the people of Leigh.

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\*\*Typical example: Calculated on an interest only mortgage against a purchase price of £50,000 (25% deposit) on a Rate Reversal Mortgage over a 25 year period (300 monthly payments). Loan completed 28 February 1997. 7.1% APR is available. 25% deposit payment of £12,500 is required. Interest only rate of 6.73% (7.1% APR). The APR has been calculated on an annual basis throughout the term of the mortgage. The arrangement fee

# BALLOT

## THE TIMES GUIDE TO ELECTION ISSUES

### 1: Education

## Where the fiercest battle for votes will be fought

AT LAST October's Labour Party conference, Tony Blair said he had three priorities for government: education, education and education. Gimmickry aside, the Labour leader knew that he was addressing one of the prime concerns of voters. In a MORI poll, 51 per cent of those asked said that education would be very important in deciding their vote. This ranks it second only to health.

When pollsters ask which party has the best health policies, respondents give Labour a six to one lead over the Tories. But education is a slightly different matter.

Although Labour's policies on education are preferred to those of the Tories and the Liberal Democrats, their lead is smaller than on health — and shrinking. In 1995, of voters who said that education was very important to them, 53 per cent

favoured Labour's policies, with 13 per cent for the Tories and 9 per cent for the Lib Dems. By 1996, Labour's score had fallen to 46 per cent and the Conservatives had risen to 15 per cent. The gap is still wide, but the Tories believe that they can make political capital out of their differences with Labour.

Although Labour opposed almost every Tory reform to education — such as the introduction of tests, league tables and grant-maintained schools — new Labour accepts virtually all of them. David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, prides himself on taking the side of parents, rather than teachers, unlike his predecessor, Ann Taylor.

Mr Blunkett is tough on standards, homework, discipline and bad teaching, and first came up with some of the ideas that his

counterpart, Gillian Shephard, has since adopted. But on two issues there is a chasm between them: selection and assisted places.

At the 1995 Labour Party conference, Mr Blunkett managed to persuade a restive audience to accept that grant-maintained schools would stay, albeit renamed "foundation" schools. But the quid pro quo was a promise to end selection. Since then, the party has rowed back a little: the 161 existing grammar schools would be turned into comprehensives only if enough local parents signed a petition calling for a ballot and then voted against selection. Remaining schools, though, would be allowed to select only a small proportion of children on grounds of aptitude for subjects such as music. Labour would repeal the Bill currently going through Parliament which

allows grant-maintained schools to select up to 50 per cent of pupils, and others up to 15 per cent.

The Tories will capitalise in the election campaign on Labour and Lib Dem opposition to selection. Their manifesto is likely to include plans for yet more selection and greater independence from local councils for schools. Both opposition parties are also against the latter, between them they control most education authorities.

The Tories say that grammar schools give academic children a better chance of success. Labour claims that selection is fine for those children who win places in good schools, but it condemns the rest to a second-class education, and it labels children as "failures"

from the age of 11. The party would rather see setting by ability in comprehensives.

Public opinion on selection is a little ambiguous. While the most recent poll, by Harris, found 54 per cent in favour of a return to grammar schools and the 11-plus, with 37 per cent against, the enthusiasm for selection was greatest among those aged over 45. The 35 to 44-year-old age group, who are most likely to have children of secondary school age, opposed selection by a small margin.

Assisted places, which give bright children from poor families the chance to go to private schools, are also politically contentious. The Tories are extending them to prep schools; Labour and the Lib Dems would phase them out, honouring existing places, but offering no new ones. Labour says that assisted

places help only "the few", while the money could be better spent reducing class sizes for infant school pupils. The Conservatives say that Labour is motivated by class envy — and that the money raised would anyway not cover the cost of ensuring that no infant class has more than 30 pupils. According to MORI, 64 per cent of Lib Dem supporters, and 55 per cent of intending Labour voters approve of assisted places.

One big difference remains, but it is a human one. If Labour wins, all its Cabinet ministers with children will have sent them to state schools, and most will have been frustrated by the experience. Yet today's Conservative Cabinet is dominated by parents of privately educated children.

This cannot help but affect politicians' thinking. As George Walden, a former Tory Education Minister once said, if his colleagues' children were at state schools, "our breakfast tables would be educational battlegrounds, as our wives described in lugubrious detail the shortcomings of state schools and insisted we do something about them".

Leading article and Letters, page 21

## Tories may miss out on the fruits of reform

MOST of what the Conservatives have done to reform education in the past 17 years has been with the aim of raising standards. Since 1988 there has been an education Bill going through Parliament virtually every year. Almost all of the reforms now have cross-party support and some are being copied abroad.

The percentage of pupils gaining good qualifications has risen sharply. Yet standards of literacy and numeracy have barely changed since 1979. Indeed, many believe that basic educational standards have actually fallen.

The evidence for this is mainly anecdotal: secondary school head teachers saying that their new 11-year-olds are worse at reading, or physics dons complaining about the mathematics skills of undergraduates. There is a tendency for each generation to believe that subsequent ones are worse educated. The truth is as likely to be that they are educated differently.

Maths and science are good test cases: they are the easiest subjects in which to make international comparisons. In the early 1980s there was concern that, while schoolchildren understood the basic rules of maths, they were bad at applying them to real-world problems. The curriculum was changed to incorporate more applied work, such as statistics and probability. The result is that English children now tend to perform better in these areas. But they are worse at number work, by which an older generation is more likely to judge them.

There is, however, some evidence of slippage relative to other countries. The latest international maths and science study found that English 13-year-olds scored above the international average for data representation, analysis and probability, but below the

### THE RECORD

average for number work, geometry, algebra, measurement and proportionality. Overall, they dropped from three points above the mean in 1990 to nearly three points below in 1995, ranking 19th out of 27 countries. Our best mathematicians are among the highest scorers, but lower-ability students tend to perform more poorly than in other countries, dragging the average down. This wide discrepancy between the best and the worst seems to be a characteristic of state education in Britain.

Last week's international numeracy study of 16 to 60-year-olds put Britain at the bottom of the league of seven developed countries, lagging well behind Australia in sixth place. The age group that had most recently left school did even worse than its elders.

Science shows a more cheering picture than maths. Here the English were sixth out of 27 in the international maths and science study, scoring 6 per cent better than average compared with 2 per cent in 1990. The Government's Skills Audit, published recently, found that new British recruits to the workforce scored highly on information technology skills, just behind Germany and Japan, but ahead of Singapore, America and France.

Literacy is hard to compare internationally, but easier to compare over time. The National Foundation for Educational Research has found that reading standards among 10 to 11-year-olds and 15 to 16-year-olds have changed little since 1985. Among six to eight-year-olds, though, standards fell slightly in the late 1980s. For writing there was no overall change in the 1980s.

But even if standards are not falling, with the growing competitive challenge, Britain needs to be improving, not just standing still. The Skills Audit found this country performing badly in most areas compared with Singapore, France and Germany, generally at the bottom of the table with America. Britain's main achievement is to send a high proportion of pupils to university: one in three compared with one in nine in 1979. But the "tail" of the school system is still relatively poorly qualified.

Since the late 1980s the Government has introduced a raft of measures, including the national curriculum, testing at seven, 11 and 14, league tables, open schools, and reforms of teacher training. Why have these not made a difference?

The educational establishment has shown resistance to change, from the Department for Education down to teachers in individual schools. People such as Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, who call for a return to more effective methods of teaching, are vilified by progressive, child-centred educationists. The latter's ideology has prevailed at teacher-training colleges.

The culture is changing, though. Gradually teachers and schools are coming round to the need for more rigour and for higher expectations. The information provided to parents by league tables has put more pressure on schools to succeed academically.

There has, after all, been a substantial rise in the number of GCSEs and A-level passes. For instance, in 1988-89, 28.7 per cent of 16-year-olds gained GCSE passes at grades A to C in English, maths and another subject. By 1994-95, the figure had risen to 35.2 per cent. Similarly, more pupils stay on to do A levels and the pass rate has risen from 68 per cent in 1980 to 86 per cent.

Does this mean that students are better educated and working harder? Or that the exams have become easier? The evidence is mixed. The fact that the pass rate for Scottish Highers (the equivalent of A levels) rose by only 4 per cent in the same period might

suggest an element of grade inflation in England and Wales, with markers becoming more lenient or exam papers becoming less challenging. A comparison of English language O levels in 1980 with GCSEs in 1993 and 1994 found that pupils who were awarded C grades at GCSE would probably have been graded D or E by O-level examiners. Yet a more recent study of A levels by Ofsted, the inspection body, and the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, found little evidence of easier exams or of more lenient marking. It was, however, hampered by a shortage of answer papers from earlier years.

Degree inflation is almost certainly a problem. The much higher numbers of students entering higher education ought to suggest a decline in the percentage winning firsts or upper seconds. Instead there has been a big rise. Nearly 60 per cent were awarded one of the top two grades in 1993, compared with just over 40 per cent in 1973.

At GCSE and A level, though, some of the improvement may be down to teachers being more focused on getting good results. Pupils may be better motivated, too: keen on winning a university place and more aware of the importance of qualifications in the job market.

The politicians' task of improving standards is made harder by the slipperiness of central control and the time that it takes to make any difference. As Kenneth Clarke once said, the Education Secretary is not in charge of a single school. Levers can be pulled from the centre, but by the time their effect is felt at the periphery, the influence may be negligible.

Worst of all for politicians used to working on an electoral cycle, any improvement from their policies may not be seen for a generation. Although an expert outsider would probably declare the Tory legacy of reform to have been broadly sensible, if Labour wins the election, it could be Tony Blair who reaps the political rewards of Conservative policies.

### CONSERVATIVES



■ **Nursery:** vouchers for all four-year-olds whose parents want them, extended nationwide from April.

■ **Secondary:** selection to be increased. Make it easier for schools to become grammars and for comprehensives to have "grammar streams". Grant-maintained schools will be able to select up to half their pupils by ability without asking permission. Mani

leste will probably bring in even more selection and greater independence for schools from local education authorities (LEAs). There may be takeovers of "failing" LEAs and a reduction in the powers of all LEAs. A levels more rigorous and exam boards reduced.

■ **Further:** learning credits, extending entitlement to education or training to the age of 21, will help colleges to compete with school sixth-forms. Expansion to continue.

■ **Higher:** kicked into touch by setting up National Commission on Higher Education, chaired by Sir Ron Dearing. Will report a few months after election. Greater concentration of university research.

■ **Adult:** refresher courses to improve basic skills. Career Development Loans to be promoted for vocational training.

■ **Teachers:** Training Agency to devise new curriculum for initial teacher training. Qualification for head teachers.

■ **Private:** Assisted Places Scheme being extended to prep schools.

### LABOUR



■ **Nursery:** mixture of state and private provision for all four-year-olds whose parents want it. Existing vouchers to be honoured, future ones scrapped. Childcare to be added to nursery education.

■ **Primary:** assessment on entry. More focus on three R's. Classes no more than 30 for first three years. Encourage phonics in reading and whole-class teaching for maths. Encourage setting by ability within classes. All 11-year-olds to reach chronological reading age. At least 30 minutes' homework a night for 7 to 11s. Summer literacy camps.

■ **Secondary:** five GCSEs at Grade A to C as target for all.

Aim for 80 per cent to stay on after 16. Grant-maintained schools to be renamed "foundation" schools. Local ballots, if parents want, on existing grammars. Increasing independence of schools within LEAs. Special needs include very able children.

GCSE and A levels replaced by National Certificates, with academic and vocational qualifications.

■ **Further:** school-to-work and apprenticeship programmes encouraged. At least two days a week off job training or education for 16 to 19-year-olds in work. All without jobs trained by local Techs.

■ **Higher:** all fees paid. Maintenance loans could be paid back through national insurance.

■ **Adult:** learning accounts to pay for more education and training.

■ **Teachers:** General Teaching Council to control entry and practice. More in-service training. Salary structure based on achievement and responsibility. Poor teachers retained or dismissed.

■ **Private:** charitable status extended to state schools. No VAT on fees. Assisted places phased out, but LEA bursaries for special needs or talents.

### LIBERAL DEMOCRATS



■ **Nursery:** for all three and four-year-olds. Early years to have first claim on extra £2 billion for education. Working or in-training parents get tax relief on childcare.

■ **Primary:** reception classes no bigger than 30 — target for all classes. National curriculum slimmed and replaced. Modern languages "where practicable". Tests replaced by Record of Achievement — children to be entered for tests when ready. £500 million for repairs to primary and secondary schools.

■ **Secondary:** return grant-maintained schools and city technology colleges to "light-touch" local education authorities (LEAs). Opposed to selection. Let communities decide on existing grammars. Increase independence of schools within LEAs. Special needs include very able children.

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Q Which party has the best policies on education?

■ **Labour:** 15.5% ■ **Conservative:** 14.5% ■ **Liberal Democrat:** 13.5% ■ **Other:** 10.5%

Based on 1,000 people who thought about every question last week.

Source: MORI

■ **Only 48 per cent of 11-year-olds reached the expected standard in English in 1995. But this rose to 56 per cent in 1996. In maths, the figure rose from 48 to 53 per cent.**

■ **Primary school children in England are up to two years behind contemporaries in parts of Europe and the Far East in science and maths, according to a report in 1996 by Ofsted, the schools inspection agency.**

■ **Britain produces more science graduates relative to the young workforce than other members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.**

■ **O-level maths papers taken by 16-year-olds in Singapore are almost identical in key areas to A-level papers in Britain, according to the University of Manchester.**

■ **Primary school teachers in Britain are well paid compared with other countries; an OECD study says, but class sizes are higher than in all member states except Turkey, Ireland and The Netherlands.**

■ **In the 20 years to 1993, the proportion of graduates of traditional universities gaining first-class degrees rose from 11 to 14 per cent, according to a report for the Higher Education Quality Council. The percentage of upper seconds (2.1) rose from 31 to 44 per cent.**

Source: Higher Education Quality Council

■ **With a Labour government, education will have greater status than ever before ... Education should be a leading office of state, comparable to the other departments which have traditionally had that title.**

■ **Good schools can be a lifeline out of poverty, the ladder to a whole new life**

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## Shake-up in international clubland will raise crop of resentful outsiders

**W**hen the Berlin Wall fell and the Soviet empire imploded, outfits such as the European Union, Nato and the United Nations that made up the "West" sailed serenely on as if the new era would require only cosmetic adjustments to the way they had done business.

The EU kept crawling towards the federal dream defined by its founding fathers of the 1950s. Nato suffered a passing identity crisis, but recovered its nerve. The UN found a new peacekeeping role, but lost a lot of respect. The world had turned upside



down, but the institutional machinery just kept turning. The real earthquake occurs this year: the members of the alphabet-soup organisations will be shaken up like letters

in a game of Scrabble. For the first time in decades and on a scale never seen before, the networks which make — but sometimes only enforce — the rules of international conduct will draw fresh lines across the map of Europe. A new age of invidious distinctions is dawning.

In July a Nato summit will probably "invite" three or four Central European states to join the alliance, leaving a queue of disgruntled also-rans outside the door. "Flexibility" clauses inserted in a new Maastricht treaty, under discussion in Brussels today, would accelerate the EU's

division into separate clubs. By the middle of this year, the split between exactly which countries will be inside and outside the single currency will be starker.

**B**ecause money now drives integration, Western Europe reaches a parting of the ways. If the euro gets off the ground, nothing will matter much to those aboard the new money except keeping it airborne. The needs of the new currency zone will take precedence over everything else, including over the rest of the EU. Stress levels are

rising. EU governments resent American pressure to promise early membership to Baltic states such as Estonia, to console them for their inevitable exclusion from Nato.

Will Greece, located at the most volatile corner of Europe, feel relaxed when shut out of monetary union? How will the Italian electorate, which watched its political class collapse once already this decade, find life on the outside?

New cracks in old patterns, however, can release opportunities. Assume that Britain stays out of the single currency.

say, no politician has yet found language to debate such speculations. In particular, politicians of the 1990s find it hard to free themselves of the understandable Cold War habit of thinking that a serious country must be a member of any and every international club.

The next political generation will have to take a hard-headed look at the benefits and costs of each membership on offer.

**T**he long-running Bosnia crisis tested the EU, UN and Nato almost to destruction: the Dayton peace deal was bro-

kered by five governments meeting under the auspices of no institution at all.

Politicians such as Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, will talk a lot in the next 12 months about the all-embracing unity of the EU family and of extending it to Central Europe. It is one of the bizarre ironies of history that a German leader, heading the nation which has so compulsively collected club memberships since the war, is pressing changes which may fracture more than they bind.

GEORGE BROCK

## Staff of troubled Paris bank hold executives hostage

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

**W**ORKERS at the Paris headquarters of Crédit Foncier held senior executives hostage for a third day yesterday in a protest over government plans to shut down the loss-making bank.

About 500 workers occupied the ornate 19th-century building on the Rue des Capucines on Friday and prevented Jérôme Meysonnier, the bank's state-appointed governor, from leaving. Four other officials were also being held by the demonstrators.

Crédit Foncier, a venerable 145-year-old property lender that was once the second largest issuer of bonds after the State, had been bailed out by the Government last year after sustaining huge losses.

Plans to sell off the bank's core businesses to Crédit Immobilier, the property credit group, and then dismantle what remains have prompted anger among employees who fear the loss of at least 900 jobs from the bank's workforce of 3,300.

Jean Arthuis, the Finance Minister, broke off a tour of western France on Saturday to hold talks with the protesters, which ended in stalemate. "We are disappointed. We had been waiting for a sign that the Government was willing to change its mind about

dismantling the bank," Michel Lamy, a union leader, said.

The demonstrators pledged to continue the occupation indefinitely and said the governor and other captives would not be released until the plan to break up the company was formally shelved.

M Arthuis appeared relaxed and comfortable yesterday despite spending three days as a prisoner in his own bank. "The night went well. Everyone was on their best behaviour," he said. Although Crédit Foncier is technically a

private institution, the Government controls senior appointments at the bank because of its role in issuing subsidised loans. In 1995 the bank lost Fr10.8 billion (£1.3 billion), and last year the Government stepped in with a rescue package to stave off collapse.

M Arthuis criticised the workers' protest, describing the detention of bank officials as "a form of brutality which prevents us from moving forward". He said that, unless another buyer for the ailing bank came forward, the existing plan to hive off the housing loans business and wind up the rest was the only available option.

Resurrecting Crédit Foncier would cost French taxpayers up to Fr5 billion, M Arthuis said. The Government said a bank collapse would wreak havoc in financial markets.

"If we don't get what we want, we are ready to sit here for as long as it takes," Michel Deswert, another union official, said. Delegations of Crédit Foncier workers travelled to Paris from branches around the country to join the protest. Union leaders said relay teams of "squatters" would go into action if the occupation was extended through this week.

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# Hebron crowds hail triumphant Arafat

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN HEBRON

YASSIR ARAFAT returned in triumph to Hebron yesterday after an absence of 32 years and made a speech conciliatory to the 450 remaining Jewish settlers.

The bearded Palestinian leader, given a hero's welcome by tens of thousands of jubilant Palestinians, also claimed that the peace process had been transformed now it had been joined by the right-wing Likud Party of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu — "a friend and a partner in peace".

"Now, with this Hebron deal, we have signed peace with all the Israeli people," the former guerrilla leader said. "This is something new... We will make peace together in the Middle East hand by hand, heart by heart, soul by soul." He called for the peace treaties between the Jewish state and Egypt, Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation to be followed by peace with Syria and Lebanon.

Standing on the balcony of the former Israeli military headquarters, Mr Arafat, for

dressed in his chequered keffiyeh and his olive-green fatigues, told the crowd: "I say to the settlers here in Hebron that we do not want confrontation... we want a just peace."

Although the militant settlers living under heavy military guard less than two miles away rebuffed his gesture and

the expulsion of the settlers from Hebron," Mr Bar-Ilan said. "That is something we consider unacceptable which can damage the continuation of the peace process."

Yesterday's return by Mr Arafat to a city of 120,000 Arabs that he had not visited since 1965, and which fell to

**I say to the settlers, here in Hebron, we do not want confrontation, we want a just peace**

described him as a "master murderer", Mr Arafat's message was hailed by David Bar-Ilan, the Israeli Prime Minister's communications director.

Israel welcomes the conciliatory speech by Chairman Arafat, a welcome contrast to the incendiary and inflammatory speech given the day before by the head of the preventive security forces of the Palestinian Authority, Jibril Rajoub, who called for

Israeli forces in the Six-Day War of 1967, raised new hopes that he and Mr Netanyahu can reach a final peace settlement by the set date of mid-1999.

Saeb Erekat, a leading Palestinian negotiator, told Israeli radio: "We have proved that negotiating in pain and frustration for a year is much cheaper than fighting for five minutes. I am sure that by the end of the century there will be a Palestine next to Israel."

Hebronites who flocked to the hilltop fort created a festive atmosphere rarely seen in Hebron, a city with a long history of violence between Arabs and Jews. "With our blood and soul, we sacrifice for you, Abu Ammar," they chanted, using Mr Arafat's

*nom de guerre*. "We waited a long time for you," read one of the slogans in the crowd, expectant of further moves towards their elusive independence, shouted "Long live Palestine". Asmil al-Jahoun, a 57-year-old mechanic who had been imprisoned in the fort — which doubled as an Israeli jail — voiced the general mood. "For the first time, we now feel that we are masters of our own destiny. It makes us very, very happy."

Another Hebronite, Hassan Sulaiman, said: "I longed for this day for so many years, so many days, so many months to see my President here. Even a week ago I would not believe it could happen, that the redeployment of Israeli troops from 80 per cent of

Hebron would actually go ahead."

Mr Arafat, who arrived by helicopter, told his supporters: "I declare Hebron a liberated city." The next goal was to take control of the rest of the West Bank and establish a

new Palestinian state. As the crowd cheered, he added: "We will continue until Jerusalem."

Aware that Hebron is a stronghold of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Mr Arafat boosted his standing by assuring the

crowd that Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the blind, wheelchair-bound Hamas spiritual leader, would eventually be released from the Israeli jail where he is held and that the remaining Palestinian women prisoners held by Israel would be set free "in a few days". Foreign observers said the size and enthusiasm of his welcome in a city noted for its Islamic fervour showed the growing support among ordinary Palestinians for a peace process that Hamas opposes.



Yasser Arafat gives a double victory sign to tens of thousands of Palestinians in "liberated" Hebron yesterday

## Hutu extremists kill Spanish relief workers

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HUTU extremists have unleashed a wave of terror across Rwanda, culminating in the weekend murders of three Spanish aid workers and a witness who had given evidence against alleged genocide leaders at United Nations trials in Arusha, Tanzania.

The three dead Spaniards — a woman and two men working for Médicos del Mundo — lay in pools of blood yesterday. They had been shot in the head at the compound where they were living at Ruhengeri, 140 miles northwest of Kigali, the Rwandan capital.

An American escaped death but needed to have his leg amputated. Three Rwandan soldiers were killed defending the compound, which also houses workers with Save the Children, who are providing medical relief for Hutus returning to Rwanda.

In Madrid, Médicos del Mundo named the Spaniards as Manuel Madrazo, 42, a doctor from Seville; María Flores Sirera, 33, a nurse from Lérida, and Luis Valtuena, 30, a photographer from Madrid who was working as an administrator. In Paris, the parent organisation, Médecins du Monde, announced that it was suspending all activities in Rwanda.

A diplomat said that Hutu militiamen had gone to the house on Saturday night. After checking the Spaniards

passports, they had shot them at point-blank range.

It was the latest in a series of attacks on aid workers, tourists and foreigners in Rwanda which have escalated since the return of more than 600,000 Hutus from eastern Zaire at the end of last year.

A senior Rwandan military officer said: "These attacks are deliberately mounted to scare away expatriates."

A UN official said: "As soon as we have talked to the Rwandan Army we will be discussing whether or not to suspend operations." On the same night, a grenade was thrown into an aid worker's house, he added.

Last week Hutu extremists murdered a prosecution witness, her husband and seven children after she appeared before the UN trials, at which she was promised protection from killers bent on silencing witnesses to the genocide in 1994. The woman had testified against Jean-Paul Akayesu, 43, the former Mayor of Taba, 20 miles south of Kigali.

Mr Akayesu has been indicted for his alleged part as a leader in the killing of more than 2,000 people in Taba between April and June 1994.

The UN has refused to divulge the identity of the dead witness. But it is thought that she was a Hutu who knew Mr Akayesu well and had accused him of personally killing men, women and children and of calling for the extermination of all Tutsis.

Honore Rakotomanana, the deputy prosecutor for the UN tribunal, said that he was reviewing the witness-protection programme.

■ Kigali: A court sentenced three former teachers to death for helping to plot Rwanda's 1994 genocide, in which half a million people were killed, Rwandan radio reported yesterday. A court in southern Butare had convicted the three Hutus of mass murder and crimes against humanity, the radio report said. (AP)



## Balloonist heads for landing in India

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

STEVE FOSSETT, 57, plans to abandon his round-the-world balloon flight today after a record-setting run from the American Midwest.

Flying at 23,000ft and 120 knots, he passed into Indian airspace yesterday and was expected to touch down between Delhi and Calcutta this afternoon after breaking the balloon endurance record of six days and 16 minutes at 0619 GMT.

The American commodities trader decided to abort his effort to circle the globe after concluding that he did not have enough fuel to cross the Pacific. His ground crew said fuel had been wasted in changing course when Libya refused him permission to overfly the country, even though Colonel Muammar Gaddafi later relented.

"We cannot blame it all on that," said Rick Saum, the

mission's technical director in Chicago. "He has used more fuel than he should have and we have a lot of experience and we do not know why."

The silver 150ft double-skinned *Solo Spirit* mission has been the longest of this year's three round-the-world attempts. Richard Branson's *Virgin Global Challenger* was forced down by equipment problems in Algeria two days into its flight. The Swiss psychiatrist Bertrand Piccard ditched in the Mediterranean six hours after take-off when paraffin fumes filled his cockpit.

Mr Fossett has beaten his own distance ballooning record of 5,435 miles, set on a 1995 flight from South Korea to Canada. If he lands east of Delhi he will have covered about 10,000 miles since taking off from St Louis, Missouri, last Monday.



### Words don't come easy.

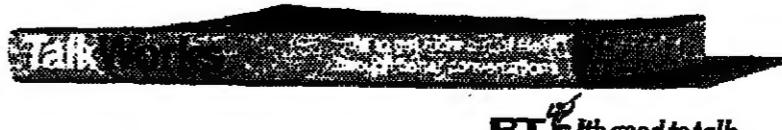
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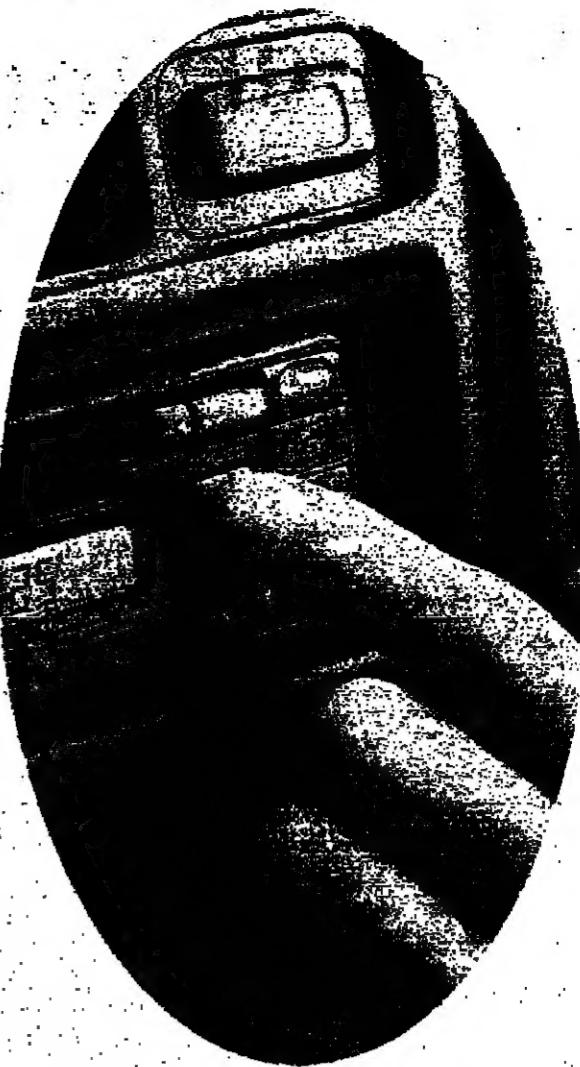




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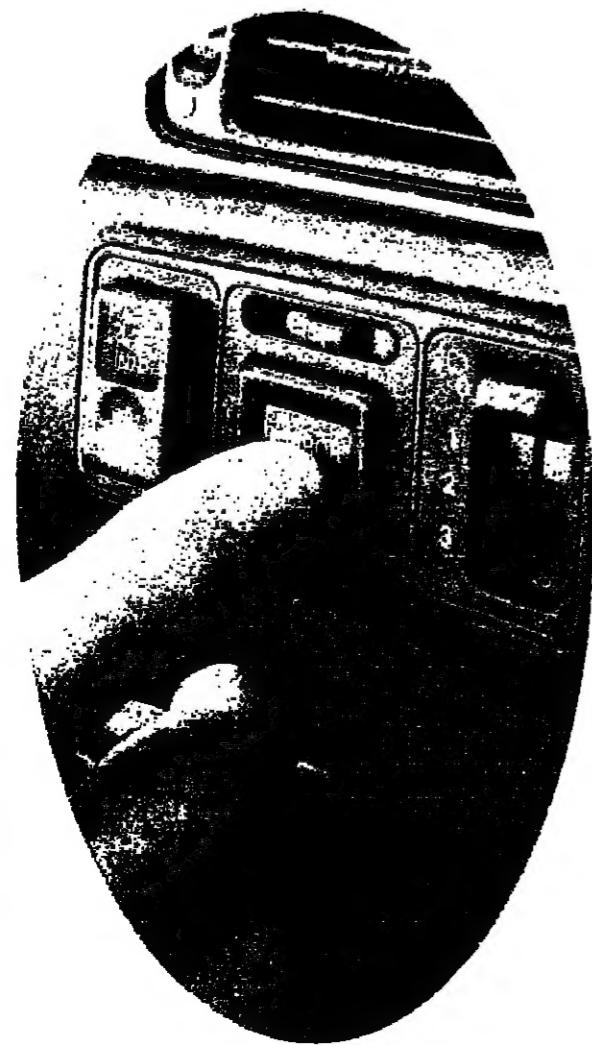
PRESS for RDS radio



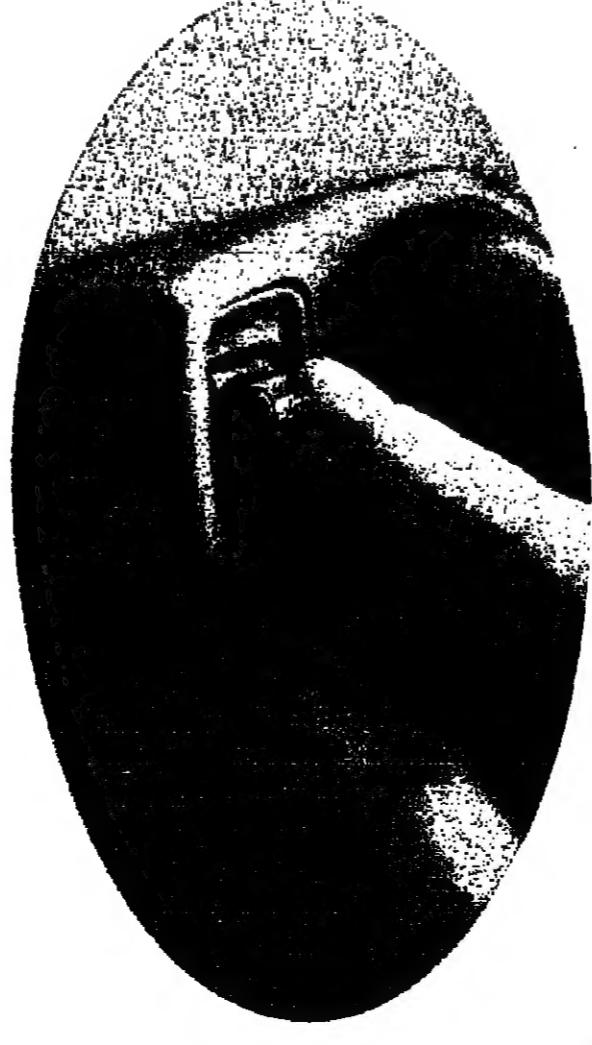
PRESS for electric tilt  
and slide sunroof



PRESS for remote control  
central locking



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PRESS for electric  
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second-  
offer

# Second-term Clinton to offer hand of peace

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

TRUE to his reputation for last-minute preparation, President Clinton will spend this morning polishing the last phrases of his inaugural speech, before being sworn in at noon in front of the Capitol for a second time as President of the United States.

Despite temperatures plunging below freezing, hundreds of thousands crowded into the capital ready to celebrate, while banks and hotels decked their facades in 60ft American flags.

Mr Clinton intends his speech to "help flush the poison from the atmosphere", after months of acrimony between Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill. He has spent weeks poring over the inaugural addresses of America's greatest Presidents. The thrust of his speech will be the assertion that government has a central role in improving people's lives.

Mr Clinton, in an interview with *The Washington Post* published yesterday, says that his first term was marked by "big battles" with Republicans over this principle, a fight he regarded as settled in his favour when Republicans shut down the government and provoked public hostility.

On Saturday night 16,500 fireworks, costing \$500,000 (£230,000), were let off from ten separate sites around the city. The Grucci family, which calls itself the First Family of Fireworks, co-ordinated the show from a tiny room in the

*USA Today* building south of the Potomac river.

Mr Clinton, who had earlier cancelled his attendance at a fund-raising dinner on the ground that it would appear inappropriate partisan, watched the show from the White House balcony.

Although the White House has deliberately made Mr Clinton's second inauguration a more subdued affair than the first, the Mall, the avenue running from Capitol Hill past the White House, has been packed with thousands of visitors since Saturday, although the cold weather has kept the crowds well below

## Gingrich 'must pay his fine from own funds'

LEADING Democrats yesterday pressed for Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to pay the \$300,000 (£180,000) fine recommended by an ethics investigation from his own pocket rather than from campaign funds (Bronwen Maddox writes).

Mr Gingrich's office was reported as saying that there were precedents for using campaign funds to pay such fines. The comment provoked outrage from Democrats and campaign reform groups, who said the use of campaign funds would make the same "a joke".

After the election, Mr Gingrich's campaign committee had made more than \$1 million in cash, and his political action committee had \$27,394 in cash. James Cole, the committee's special counsel, said on Friday that Mr Gingrich had to pay the penalty "the right way. If he doesn't... there's a chance of being back" before the ethics hearings.

The House will vote tomorrow on whether to accept the ethics committee's conclusion that Mr Gingrich misled his colleagues about his use of tax-exempt charitable funds for political purposes.

ranging from the solemn to the cute. Bands and dancers have been competing across the country for months to be selected for the honour of participating. Military bands will head the parade, followed by groups such as Darla's Dancers of Ohio, who will perform a clog dance, and the Mid-American Pompon All Star Team of Farmington Hills, Michigan.

Tickets along the 1.7-mile route cost \$10, \$50 and \$100, becoming more expensive towards the White House. More than 3,000 of Washington's policemen and hundreds of Secret Service men have been monitoring the route for weeks. Dozens of municipal workers are on hand to clean up after the 360 horses and a donkey, the Democratic symbol.

The climax of the celebrations will be tonight's 13 inaugural balls. But for many in the capital, it is the private parties which are the greater attraction. MTV and Condé Nast took over the elegant Corcoran Art Gallery for a party for 2,000 guests on Saturday night, at which Hillary Clinton made a brief appearance.

□ Boston: Paul Tsongas, a former senator who pushed ahead of Mr Clinton to become the Democratic frontrunner for President briefly in 1992, died of pneumonia. He was 55. (AP)

Inauguration guide, page 15



Fireworks light up the sky above the Washington Monument at the weekend

## Pastor 'arrested smoking cocaine'

FROM JAMES BONE  
IN NEW YORK

AN EPISCOPALIAN pastor at a troubled New York church has been arrested after police found him allegedly smoking crack cocaine in the rectory while writing his sermon.

The Rev Canon Chester LaRue made headlines as a "fighting father" last month when he reportedly fended off two burglars at St John's Episcopal Church in Brooklyn during the Christmas holidays by kneeing one of them in the groin. One of the burglars later told police, however, that a man living above Mr LaRue in the rectory was running a drug delivery service from the church. Customers would use a beeper to contact the man, Ruben Serrano, and he would send a messenger to deliver cocaine, it was claimed.

Undercover officers decided to raid the church premises. They found Mr LaRue dressed in clerical garb and typing his sermon on a computer with a crack pipe in his hand. "It was kind of odd to risk a man of the cloth," said Lieutenant Kevin Barry, the commander of the local police precinct.

The bespectacled Mr LaRue, 54, told police that he had first smoked crack cocaine to show an addict how easy it was to kick the habit, but quickly found out he was wrong. "To my great surprise, I like it," he reportedly confessed.

Police said Mr Serrano and his girlfriend were also arrested when they were found packaging crack.

Parishioners were stunned by the news. "Holy goodness," said one. "I didn't even think he smoked cigarettes."

The congregation was only just emerging from the last scandal at St John's, which is known as the "church of the generals" because Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson both worshipped there.

The last pastor, George Hoeh, was strangled by his homosexual lover at his holiday home in New Jersey in 1986.

## Second witness sought in Cosby killing

FROM GILES WHITELL  
IN LOS ANGELES

Sketch of chief suspect

POLICE believe the killer of Emile Cosby was a white man of average weight and height, aged between 25 and 32, with heavy features and a close-fitting woolen hat. A composite sketch of the suspect was issued on Saturday, two days after the 27-year-old, only son of Bill Cosby, the entertainer, was found murdered next to his car in west Los Angeles.

"We're not by any shape desperate,"

Tim McBride, the police commander, said, although he admitted that leads pointed in "lots of directions" and called on the public to help to identify the chief suspect in Hollywood's latest tragedy.

In a new twist to a crime whose motive is still being described as robbery, a sketch of a possible second witness was also released on Saturday. The man, who was white, with a goatee beard, was seen leaving the murder scene in a blue hatchback with out-of-state number plates. Although he is wanted as a

witness, police refused to rule out the possibility that he might be a suspect.

Both sketches were based on interviews with the 47-year-old screenwriter Mr Cosby was on his way to visit when he was shot dead while changing a tire.

Summoned by mobile phone, the woman witness had gone to help by shining her headlights on his stranded Mercedes.

Experts believe delays in issuing the sketches, caused by the witness's traumatised condition, could hamper the investigation.

## Exxon seeks oil tanker's return to Alaska waters

Los Angeles: In a move bitterly fought by Alaskan natives, the Exxon oil company is lobbying for its *Exxon Valdez* tanker to be allowed back into Prince William Sound, seven years after running aground there with catastrophic results (Giles Whittell writes).

As part of an Oil Pollution Act passed in the wake of the

11 million gallons oil spillage, the *Exxon Valdez* was banned from Alaskan waters. Exxon's lawyers now claim that the company is being victimised by an unconstitutional retroactive application of the law.

"It is impossible to overstate the depth of Exxon's insensitivity to the Alaskan natives," Gary Mason, a lawyer, said.

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- Pay less or stop paying within a pre-set limit
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- Pay over 10 rather than 12 months
- Additional Funds facility of up to 5% of property value with cheque book
- No income details required on loans up to 75% of property value

Free re-mortgage package available.

#### PERSONAL CHOICE MORTGAGE

- No Arrangement Fee
- No Mortgage Indemnity
- Valuation Fee refunded when funds sent to Solicitors
- No redemption penalty
- Capital raise up to £50,000
- Cheque book facility available to draw funds when required

Free re-mortgage package available.

#### PERSONAL CHOICE MORTGAGE

- No Arrangement Fee
- No redemption penalty
- Higher Loan to Value Access Fee added to loan
- Solicitors and Valuation Fee can be added

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مكتبة الأصل

# WHY THE BAIAA MONOPOLY MUST BE STOPPED

BY SIR FREDDIE LAKER R.



Sir Freddie Laker shortly before the collapse of his airline in 1982, after which transatlantic airline fares soared.

Dear Prime Minister,

When, in 1982, my Skytrain was forced out of business, the British and American flying public lost out.

Transatlantic fares rose, because BA and the other members of the transatlantic cartel had little or no competition. The public had no choice but to pay the increased fares.

I know that my airline was sabotaged by aggressive and unfair tactics by BA and others, to which the authorities turned a blind eye.

After the event, the then Conservative transport minister Ian Sproat even said "I've got Freddie Laker's blood on my hands!"

Now BA and American Airlines are wanting to form a monopoly on transatlantic routes, which will allow them again to overwhelm other airlines, put their prices up, and force competition out of the market place.

Clearly, this can only be in the interest of BA and American. Leopards never change their spots!

For the following reasons, I believe the BA/American deal should be stopped.

Currently, the Office of Fair Trading are looking at draft undertakings which will limit the power of the merger.

The undertakings are mild, ineffective, and will still result in BA and American having a massive monopoly on transatlantic routes.

Monopolies in any other industry are illegal and are not in the public interest.

With such an overwhelming monopoly, the public and certainly other airlines will lose out again. There is no doubt that, like all monopolies, BA and American will use jugular marketing and other 'cartel' style price cutting, including 'dirty tricks' of the kind that drove Skytrain out of business. Then, as before, fares will skyrocket.

If, as BA and American claim, the merger will produce lower fares and create more competition, why are they seeking anti trust immunity from the US government?

Prime Minister, the answer is simple. They intend to 'fix' fares.

The Office Of Fair Trading's report on the merger currently recommends that BA and American must relinquish seven pairs of take off and landing slots per day on a permanent

basis for the seven carriers wishing to fly from Heathrow to the US.

That's one slot each. It's hardly going to lessen the power of the monopoly. BA and American will still control between 70% and 80% of the peak take off and landing slots.

Furthermore, in practice, BA and American are not obliged to give up actual transatlantic slots by the OFT.

Instead they could, for instance, give up European, or even domestic services, such as Plymouth to London!

This wouldn't diminish the power of the monopoly at all on transatlantic routes, though it might mean some UK cities losing their Heathrow flights.

What's more, BA are demanding that they be given the right to sell the slots, which in my and many other people's opinions is extraordinary. The slots belong to the people. We paid for them as taxpayers. Why should BA benefit whilst the real owners, the people, pay a premium for their own airport slots?

Meanwhile all this does is make the monopoly even more powerful by giving it huge amounts of extra revenue.

In conclusion, I believe both politicians and the public are currently being duped into thinking this monopoly will be less powerful than it actually will be.

This cosy cartel is an affront to fair play and equality. And, I believe, it is contrary to anti trust law.

BA and American Airlines must be made to compete on a level playing field with airlines such as Virgin Atlantic, United, and, indeed, the new Laker Airways Incorporated.

As the Consumer's Association said recently "We continue to hold the view that this alliance must be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, and must ultimately be blocked."

Please, Prime Minister, remember the past. Make sure this 'merger' is referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Because, should it be allowed to go ahead, the British flying public will have to live with its dire consequences for many years to come.

Freddie Laker

Sir Freddie Laker.

# When the face is an open book

Faces excite and delight, attract and repel us at the same time, they inform us. I can learn so much about you from a glance. Have we met? Where are you from? Are you happy, angry or sad? Are you interested in me? In a noisy room, I can read your lips. The human face is the clearest picture of the human soul — even if it sometimes lies.

Given the feast of social signals on offer from the face, we might expect our brains to contain some sophisticated equipment for decoding them. Research conducted over the past 15 years, much of it in Britain, has borne this out. A spectacular example appeared in *Nature* recently, in a study of fear.

Charles Darwin is the grandfather of this line of inquiry. He published *The Expression of Emotions in Animals and Man* in 1872, extending his theory of the evolution of physical form into the realms of emotion and behaviour. He believed, like contemporary socio-biologists, that these also have a natural history.

Darwin conjures up fear with some relish: "It is often preceded by astonishment, and is so far akin to it, that both lead to the senses of sight and hearing being instantly aroused... the eyes and mouth are widely opened and the eyebrows raised, as the frightened man stands like a statue motionless and breathless."

In the middle of this century, Darwin's views on emotion became unfashionable. Amid general scepticism that biology played a big part in determining human behaviour, anthropologists concluded that there is no "natural" language of emotional gesture. But persuasive work by Professor Paul Ekman, an American psychologist, and others in the Seventies overturned this.

Professor Ekman found that a small group of facial expressions conveys similar emotions the world over, although social convention affects when and where we display them. Fear, anger, happiness, sadness and disgust are now generally agreed to be "universal" emotions, equally evident on faces in New Guinea and Newmarket. There is some strong evidence that we do not need to learn how to express these emotions: blind children begin to display them at much the same age as their sighted peers.

In a similar vein, psychologists have long suspected that interpreting facial emotion is a specific ability, independent of the ability to identify faces. Patients with "prosopagnosia", such as Professor Oliver Sacks' *Man who Mistook his Wife for a Hat*, may be unable to recognise faces, but sometimes remain able to decode their expressions.

Until recently it seemed a reasonable assumption that this ability to read emotion from the face was a unitary psychological capacity. In other words, it was thought that

How do we know at a glance whether somebody is feeling angry or unhappy? Adam Zeman on decoding the language of facial emotion

the recognition of all emotions took place in the same region of the brain. However, the exact location of this region was far from clear. Work over the past two years, reported independently by Professor Andrew Young and Dr Andrew Calder from the Medical Research Council's Applied Psychology Unit in Cambridge, and by Dr Ralph Adolphs and Dr Antonio Damasio at the University of Iowa, has pinpointed a structure in the brain crucial to reading facial emotion, supporting the notion that such abilities are special. In fact, they turn out to be even more selective than we thought. This structure is not required for reading all the emotions; it specifically enables us to see anger and fear.

This conclusion came from work with a patient whose amygdala had been damaged surgically on both sides of the brain, as a way of controlling her epilepsy. Similar in size and shape to an almond, the amygdala is tucked in beneath the surface of the temporal lobe, a part of the brain lying on the other side of the ear.

The patient in question, known as DR, had no difficulty in recognising familiar faces. She did seem poor at reading facial emotion. But as work progressed it became clear that detecting the signs of happiness and sadness, surprise and disgust, posed no problem for her, and she was somewhat unreliable with anger. But she was all at sea with fear.

This made sense. It is known from research with animals that their amygdala are active in circumstances that provoke fear or anger. Patients with epilepsy arising from the amygdala sometimes experience surges of these emotions during attacks. Finally, the amygdala receive a rich stream of information from visual areas of the brain which are excited by faces, first identified by Dr Edmund Rolls and Dr David Perrett at Oxford University in the Eighties. If any region of the brain should play a part in perceiving the signs of fear in a face, then it is the amygdala.

The question asked by Professor Chris Frith, Professor Young, Dr Perrett and collaborators at the Wellcome Department of Cognitive Neurology at Queen Square in

London, and answered in *Nature*, was elegantly simple. What happens in the normal human brain when it is confronted by a fearful face?

Two technical advances have made it possible to address this question. Positron emission tomography maps areas within the brain that become activated when it performs a task. Computerised graphics allow the creation of an evenly graded series of "morphed" expressions, running between one emotion, like happiness, and another, like fear.

The team at Queen Square examined the activation of the brains of normal subjects looking at faces whose expressions traversed the spectrum from happiness to fear. The subjects were not asked to concentrate on facial emotion; their explicit task was to decide the gender of the faces. But as the "percentage" of fear increased, so did the activation of the amygdala.

These observations are taken a step further in another research paper, by Dr Sophie Scott, Professor Young and colleagues, published last week in *Nature*. Could damage to the amygdala cause problems in recognising the sound of fear, as well as the sight? Do we read the human voice with the same neural equipment with which we read the human face?

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The team at Queen Square examined the activation of the brains of normal subjects looking at faces whose expressions traversed the spectrum from happiness to fear. The subjects

# A man, a woman — and all the flavours of Eden

## ASPECTS OF LOVE

In Part One of a series in which leading women writers examine love in the Nineties, Helen Dunmore explains how food and intimacy are inextricably linked

To write of food with love is the most innocent of pornographies. Say that Bernard has got up early and gone to market. He comes back with a basket of woven straw, in which nests four fat, perfectly ripe figs. He gives the basket to Julia. Figs for breakfast. Their skin is as soft as suede. Julia chooses a fig and breathes in its spicy, sun-warmed fragrance. Bernard produces a bowl of thick yellow cream. Julia dips her finger into the cream, raises it to her mouth, and bites. The luscious, warm, grainy flesh melts into the cool unctuousness of cream. Years later, Bernard and Julia will never be able to separate the taste of figs from that of one another's lips.

Food, fruit, a man, a woman, sex. We are talking about Eden, and an Eden without food is impossible to imagine. Babies know about Eden when they latch on to the nipple, and stroke their mothers' breasts to draw down the milk. Most of us develop a private Eden of food, which may well be purgatory to other people. I love the litany of apples: Egremont Russet; Kidd's Orange; Charles Ross; James Grieve; Beauty of Bath, with its charming name and brief moment of favour before it turns to flame.

Then there are marzipan bars wrapped in bitter chocolate, muscled raisins in triangular boxes, and croutons from fresh white bread and covered with butter. My husband loves the correct drawing of a pair of Crumpets, soft, dry, black, never stale. Guinness is certainly considered as a food rather than a drink in our house, if not as a religion.

The sharing of these private Edens is one of the most intimate delights. Children suck a coffee bar to a point, then hold it out to share with a friend. Friends cook for one another, showing off cherished dishes. Lovers drop their guard still further and admit to a passion for sandwich-spread sandwiches, tinned peaches with Carnation milk, or a greedy heap of hot buttered toast in bed.

A smart dish of salmon

couliac can be shared with anybody, but a pair of plump Craster kippers, cooked in a foil-wrapped snatched meal and still hungry, the food lies in each stomach in cold clods. In the final stages each person forages alone, arms huddled round a tray of TV dinner as if embracing their own misery.

It is hard to put a finger on all the delicate threads which connect food and emotional wellbeing, but very easy to see when these threads are broken. I think of the look of hurt, defensive misery in the face of a heavily overweight boy whom I saw alone in McDonald's, shovelling down his food in a way that made sure he could not enjoy it. Or the candle-wax skin of an anorexic girl, who has taught herself to think of food as a foreign language she need not speak.

Jane Eyre, at Lowood School, is doubly starved. The meagre food she gets is ruined by careless cooking. The porridge is so burnt that the ravenous children can't eat it. They wither from malnutrition, and from the lovelessness of the institution. When Miss Temple tenderly feeds Jane and the dying Helen Burns on exquisite fragments of toast and cake, they are lifted into another world. That some moved me deeply when I first read Jane Eyre, as a child. Very soon the feast is over and the midwinter of Jane's physical and emotional life resumes, but I loved the way Jane clung onto her appetites. She had nothing, but she knew how to hunger.

Jane Eyre resists the burnt porridge. I make myself a cup of tea and dunk digestive biscuits in it, as I used to do with my mother when I was six years old. I would race back from school in order to get her to myself, with the baby asleep and my older sister not yet home, and we would drink tea together. These are things that go on for ever: the early winter twilight, the slap of my own running feet, the back door bursting open, the sweetness of the biscuit dissolving on my tongue.

• Helen Dunmore's book of short stories, *Love of Fat Men*, will be published by Viking in June, price £16.

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Most of us develop an Eden of food, which may be purgatory to others, says Helen Dunmore.

## A President's ball is anything but a party

THE SECRET is out. For the Inaugural Balls tonight, after Bill Clinton has been sworn in a second time as President of the United States, Hillary Clinton will wear a clinging, tulle gown with matching satin cape by Oscar de la Renta. Her meetings with dress designers began soon after the election and speculation about the outcome has occupied gossip columns and dinner parties ever since.

Meanwhile, Washington's boutiques and hairdressers have been overrun. Ed Solomon of Anthony's of Georgetown, gentlemen's outfitters, usually charges \$39.95 for hiring an Oscar de la Renta tuxedo, but expects his prices to rise to \$100 by today. "Women will shop for three years for the perfect dress, but a man will wait until the last day before renting," he says.



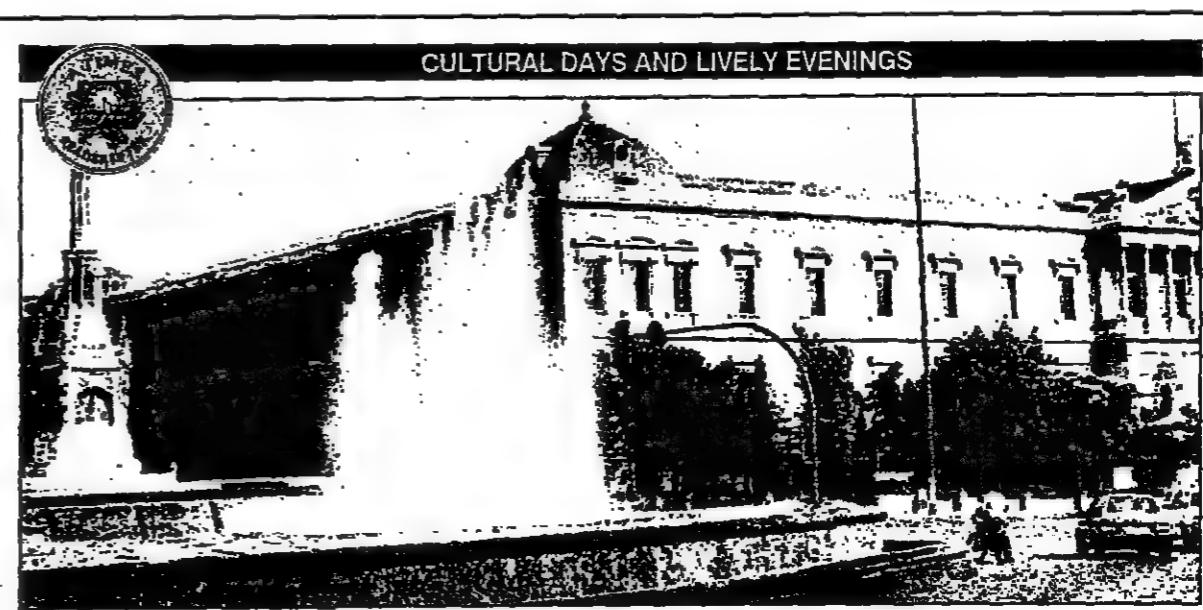
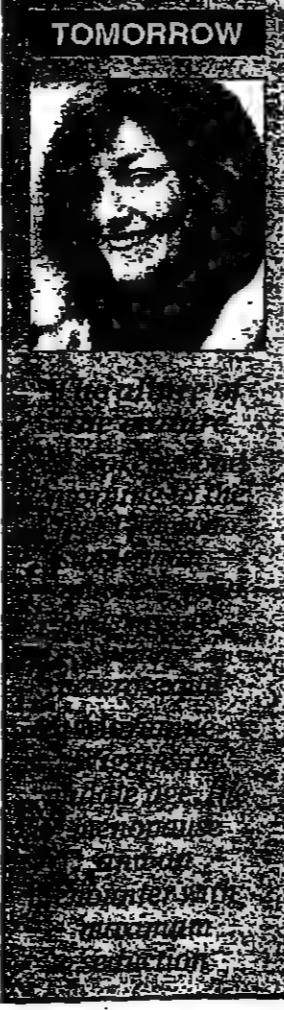
Hot couple: the Reagans

After weeks of such efforts, disappointment is inevitable, veterans say. Traditionally, it is ferociously cold. One President — William Harrison in March 1841 — refused to wear hat or coat while delivering an hour-long speech, and died of pneumonia a month later. At Ronald Reagan's inauguration, trumpets froze to bandsmen's lips.

But there will be no hot food other than hot dogs from street vendors. Organisers have planned only light snacks, with a cash bar for beer, wine and soft drinks. One seasoned ballgoer says: "The food table starts out looking nice, but after an hour no one will go near, it looks so disgusting. And it's almost impossible to drink too much because you can't get to the bar." Most disappointing of all, no one has room to dance.

For those at the most exclusive private parties, the next morning may bring a much-coveted mention in the Style section of *The Washington Post*. However, survivors of the official balls are likely to share the verdict of Washington insiders that most people don't go more than once.

BRONWEN MADDOX



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Pupils in Britain do less homework than in other countries. John O'Leary asks if they

# Homework's coming home



No link could be proved between hours of homework and improved examination results

**N**ineteen out of twenty parents think homework is important, according to a Government-sponsored report last week. Politicians obviously agree, since they have been straying increasingly into this unaccustomed territory. But that is where consensus ends.

School inspectors find that homework is the hottest issue at most parents' meetings; invariably, one group wants more while another thinks their children are given too much. In the political arena, there is equal disagreement about whether teachers need national instructions on how long pupils should labour.

So why has homework suddenly become the educational buzzword? Cynics say because it is cost-free. But a more realistic explanation lies in the surveys showing that most British pupils get off lightly compared with those in countries with better results.

British pupils between the ages of seven and 12 were found to do much less homework than their counterparts in France, Germany, Japan, China or the United States. The American market research company Roper Starch found that only 42 per cent of the British sample were set work on three or more evenings a week, compared with 90 per cent or more elsewhere.

By the age of 14, the average load in Britain has risen to six hours a week, although the variations between schools are immense. In Hungary, Holland, Poland, Israel, Italy and Japan, the average is more than eight hours.

Yet the evidence suggests that the amount of homework set in British schools has been growing. While almost a quarter of secondary school pupils do less than two hours' homework a week, according to Keele University's national database, 7 per cent do more than ten hours. Parents find themselves often doing the homework, thereby distorting the results and defeating the purpose of the exercise.

A study by the National Foundation for Educational Research found that more than 40 per cent of 11-year-olds were never expected to take work home. In the following year, after transfer to secondary school, almost two thirds of pupils were doing less than Labour's recommended 90 minutes per night.

In many independent and grammar schools, however, as well as the more academic comprehensives, overload is the main concern. For every disgruntled parent, who feels that their child is not being stretched, there is another worried about the pressure of projects and coursework. Conscientious girls, in particular, will toil late into the night.

At King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls in Birmingham, one of the top state schools, the norm for 11 to 13-year-olds has been reduced from 90 minutes to an hour a night because of fears that other activities were suffering. Elspeth Insh, the Principal, said: "Cutting the time spent on homework does not mean we don't think it's important. I think it is vital to the learning process. But in our case the girls were doing too much."

Even the hardest taskmasters hardly compare with the pressures on pupils in the high-performing countries of the Pacific Rim. Homework in Japan builds up from about an hour a night at the age of ten to four hours as university entrance examinations approach. Some schools expect teachers to visit pupils' homes to check assignments are being done.

Professor Michael Barber's report for the Department for Education and Employment conceded, like others before, that no link could be proved between hours of homework and improved examination results. Academics, like politicians, are agreed that homework makes a difference, but they cannot say how much.

JOHN O'LEARY



School inspectors find homework is the hottest issue at parents' meetings: some want more, others less

## HISTORY OF CONCERN

**HOMWORK** began as "prep" in 19th-century boarding schools. In day schools it was a response to the establishment of HMI schools inspections and the creation of public examinations. Teachers, whose salaries were linked to examination results, gave homework to pupils who required extra coaching. This consisted of learning by rote — sums, tables and spellings to be tested in class.

The issue attracted little further attention until the 1930s, when, after an HMI survey, the Board of Education set homework quantity at one-half hour to two hours a night for secondary pupils, none for primary pupils, and that clubs, hobbies and sport should be as important as academic study in the home. To achieve this, staff were instructed to set homework relevant to class work and not to underestimate time required for tasks. In the poorest inner-city districts, reading schemes were established.

From this period, up until the 1970s, hours of homework appeared to remain constant — averaging 30 minutes per night for 11 to 15 year-olds, one to three hours for 14 to 15 year-olds and two to three hours for 15 to 16 year-olds.

In the 1970s, school boards and teachers' unions argued that the home was no place for study.

The most radical shake-up of homework came with the introduction of the national curriculum, league tables and GCSEs in 1986. Julian Stern, an educational consultant based at London University's Institute of Education, says: "With renewed concern about school standards, greater emphasis on exam results, and the introduction of coursework as a contribution to qualifications, homework has been formalised."

These changes also saw a transformation in the content of homework. Traditionally it focused on exercises to practise particular operations or processes, verbal memorising, revision of previous work and preparation for a coming lesson. Today it is designed to nurture individual research, open up areas of study and make use of materials and sources of information that are not accessible in the classroom.

Now, concern is being voiced once again about the circumstances under which homework takes place. "A particular worry regarding standards in the new curriculum is the degree of help some pupils are given at home," says Michael Barber, whose study on homework was published last week. "Standards are naturally easier to control through exams."

BRIDGET HARRISON

# COMING UP

## FOOTBALL

An interview with Nicholas Hytner, director of the new film adaptation of Arthur Miller's "The Crucible".

West Ham v Liverpool

Look to improve our positions in the Premier League

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Aspects of Love

Day two of women writing about love

## 'Digging in books can be fun'



Melanie Hook thinks Emily is not pushed hard enough

Name: Emily Hook, 10  
School: St Andrew's C of E Primary, Halstead, Essex, Year 5  
Homework: 2 hours/week  
"Most of what I have to do is research — finding out the names of capital cities, that kind of thing. Our teacher likes to set us challenges for the next day. It can be fun, digging around in books for information, asking Mum and Dad questions. My mum thinks that I should have more homework to do but I think what I do is about right — I do about two hours a week. Not everyone in my class agrees: one boy really hates doing homework and causes a terrible fuss whenever it is set. When I go to senior school I know I will have to do a lot more homework, so it's good to start early."

Melanie Hook (mother):  
"Emily is a very bright child

'AT FIRST I THOUGHT THIS IS HORRIBLE'

Name: Lucy Shilton, 11  
School: Shentford School, Essex (mixed comprehensive), Year 7

Homework: 9 hours/week

"My first reaction was 'yuk', this is horrible. I wish we'd done some more homework at my primary school."

Janet Shilton (mother):

"Her homework routine is

disciplined; I am responsible for ensuring that she completes her tasks. One problem with switching the onus on to parents is that you are frightened of interfering with your child's homework. You are also apprehensive as to whether you will actually be able to answer their questions, especially if you aren't academic yourself."

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# Give chief officers full authority

Michael Howard explains the reasoning behind the Police Bill

The provisions in the Police Bill which will be debated in the Lords today have properly received a great deal of attention. But much of the debate has been based on a misunderstanding of the nature of the police operations covered by the Bill, their importance in the fight against serious crime, and the extent to which police would be inhibited in fighting it if proposals by Labour and the Liberal Democrats are accepted.

The police have been undertaking such operations for decades with considerable success and without giving rise to complaints. Over the past 30 or 40 years, the need to exploit modern surveillance techniques has grown as the threat from organised crime has developed. The police have made it clear that they cannot effectively combat the criminal gangs who engage in terrorism, major drug-trafficking, armed robbery, kidnapping and so on unless they can take advantage of a range of techniques.

Up to now these operations have had no statutory authority. Administrative guidelines were issued in 1977 and strengthened in 1984. Under these guidelines, intrusive surveillance must be a last resort, when other methods have failed or are believed likely to fail. But we recognise that authorisation of these operations should be put on a statutory basis, with close and effective judicial scrutiny of the use of these techniques.

This is what the Police Bill provides. It creates the new post of surveillance commissioner, who will be a former or serving High Court judge and who will review authorisations and investigate complaints. Chief constables can now be asked to appear in court to justify their decisions, and a number have been cross-examined. The new Bill retains this means of calling chief officers to account, and adds the commissioner's scrutiny. And the commissioner will publish an annual report, in which he will identify any chief constable who has used his powers improperly.

The Bill does not relax the existing guidelines. It is simply wrong to suggest that it authorises the police to eavesdrop on the private conversations of anyone who speaks to a lawyer, journalist or doctor. Surveillance may be authorised only if it is necessary to prevent serious crime, and may be used only against those engaged in such crime.

A Times leader of January 18 suggested that whether judicial scrutiny should take place before or after the authorisations of such operations depends upon whether prior authorisation would undermine the Bill's effectiveness.

The argument depends upon a full understanding of the nature and purpose of intrusive surveillance. The investigation of serious and organised crime requires techniques such as recording conversations of criminals in public places, placing tracking devices on vehicles and sometimes entering property such as garages and warehouses, and, more rarely, residential homes. New information may suddenly send a complex investigation in a different direction. It may be vital to the success of an investigation to track the movements of a vehicle or to

monitor a conversation. Weighing up the merits of different courses of action and being able to act decisively between success and failure, or even life or death.

These are operational judgements which only very senior police officers are qualified to make. They have the experience and training to make such decisions. They have detailed knowledge of the investigation and the methods previously tried, and they know the risk to the public or to individuals if surveillance is not attempted. At least one judge has acknowledged, it is impossible for a judge to put himself fairly in the chief constable's shoes.

Some commentators have argued for prior judicial authorisation by making a comparison with the system for obtaining search warrants. But the comparison is false. Unlike operations under the new Bill, search warrants are executed with the full knowledge of those under investigation. The purpose is to obtain evidence for possible criminal proceedings. That is properly a matter for the courts. By contrast, intrusive surveillance is covert. And a delay in making a decision or withholding of authority could jeopardise a whole investigation.

And this is why operational decisions must remain with the police. Their very nature means that prior judicial authorisation of intrusive surveillance would inhibit the effectiveness of operations. I am not prepared to take that risk. It seems the opposition parties are.

The Liberal Democrat proposals would mean judges taking operational decisions. That is not their role. Under Labour's proposals, the commissioner would be both authorising operations and investigating complaints arising from them. He would have to second-guess the chief constable and substitute his own judgment. Neither the circuit judge nor the commissioner could be called upon by the court to justify his decision in any resulting prosecution. This crucial accountability would disappear under the Opposition's amendments.

The Government has itself proposed a number of changes to the Bill to strengthen the judicial scrutiny. These will require all authorisations to be notified to the commissioner as soon as reasonably practicable. In many cases, such as those infringing legal, journalistic or medical confidentiality, the commissioner will be under a statutory duty to review the authorisation within 48 hours. He will have power to quash any authorisation that was not properly given, and to order the destruction of information obtained. To ensure that the review process is speedy and thorough, we will be providing for more than one commissioner.

I believe that our proposals strike the right balance between protecting civil liberties and giving the police the tools they need. The Chief Constable of Merseyside has said: "Any changes to current proposals will cause serious damage to our capacity to combat serious crime." We ignore such concerns at our peril. The author is the Home Secretary.

In asset management as in football, payment is by results, so teams cannot afford to lose top scorers

Last week it was easy to confuse the fund management and football businesses. Perhaps the big fund managers ought to offer new contracts to their star performers that would allow transfer fees, rather than having to bombard them with guaranteed bonuses. At the moment, Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, having lost Nicola Horlick in a row that might have surprised even Tottenham Hotspur, is desperately in need of a replacement striker. At least billions of pounds of funds under management may drift away unless they find a good one. What would Carol Galley, the Eric Canham of the Mercury Asset Management investment team, be worth to them? Certainly more than the £15 million Newcastle United paid for Alan Shearer.

Both Nicola Horlick and Carol Galley were trained in that noble academy of the modern city, the old S.G. Warburg. What would Siegmund Warburg, unquestionably the greatest banker in the London of the past 50 years, have made of the latest events? He would not have approved. For him banking was a private concern. He did not seek publicity for himself, though he knew how to use the press to benefit his clients. Women have been horrified to see a highly paid manager storm across Europe to make a personal appeal in Frankfurt. He would have disliked it all the more because his own training was in traditional German high-banking, and the Deutsche Bank was one of his closest allies in the post-war world. But Siegmund Warburg's banking era has gone: he is himself long since dead; his bank has been bought by the Swiss; all that remains intact of his creation and in British hands is Mercury Asset Management, which he never foresaw growing to anything like its present eminence. There his spirit is still revered.

By Siegmund Warburg's standards, which were exacting, Nicola Horlick's fault has been the failure to control her ego. He accepted that a dramatic sense of one's own persona

# Why Nicola Horlick was underpaid

was an unavoidable part of a public career; he would have allowed for it in politicians, in actors, in journalists, in barristers — though no one wants an egotistical solicitor — and in a certain kind of entrepreneur. He knew that there were business tycoons with egos like Robert Maxwell's, though he did not always choose to act for them. He did not see banking — least of all his own bank — as an arena for the public display of personality.

This was the austere tradition in which Carol Galley and Nicola Horlick were both raised, though Nicola Horlick joined Mercury Asset Management after Siegmund Warburg's time. Carol Galley has stuck by this tradition of privacy; she did not relish the publicity which fell on her during the *Granada*-Forsyth battle. Nicola Horlick, by taking her case to the press, has broken the tribal taboos.

Women are often extremely good at fund management, as these two undoubtedly are. It is now perhaps the highest-paid profession for women: their salaries and bonuses may be a multiple of those even of the top women barristers. When one considers the risks she was taking with her career, what can have induced Nicola Horlick to go public in her battle with the powers in Morgan Grenfell? After all, the public cannot force the bank to give her back her much-chchered job.

Some allowance must be made for the fact that she is a woman, not because women in business are more emotional than men, but because women working in a male environment do have to fight their corner

harder. Margaret Thatcher is an obvious example. Many men get to the top in their professions by being "good chaps" and easy for other men to get on with; no woman ever gets to the top by being a good chap. Nicola Horlick would never have got her job if she had not fought harder for it than the man who might otherwise have glided into it. Women are at best country members of the great male clubs of the City, of the House of Commons. The insider's way of achieving their ob-

jectives is not often open to them. There had also been the Peter Young affair, which cost Morgan Grenfell £200 million in compensation, and a serious loss of prestige. Rightly or wrongly, Keith Percy, who had been Nicola Horlick's immediate superior and supporter, was held partly responsible for the failure to supervise Young and was disposed of. Robert Smith, her new boss, was not so sympathetic, though he seems to have recognised at first that Mrs Horlick was a rising star. These changes make people uneasy; there was unease running through Morgan Grenfell, an unease that spread to rumours of people leaving, possibly in a group. The bank itself has

been resented as a predator in attracting successful fund managers from other firms. It can be said of Morgan Grenfell, "Peach not that ye be not poached".

It must also have been difficult for everyone that the ultimate power lay not in London but in Frankfurt. The German bankers themselves must be bemused by the difficulties that are now arising in their very successful London subsidiary. The cultural gap between Frankfurt and London is a good deal wider than the gap between London and New York. An American bank might have found it easier to understand what was happening and to make an effective response.

Modern fund management is a very large business which is wholly dependent on the skills and contact of a small leading group of successful fund managers. These successful fund managers need to combine investment skills — their funds must out-perform their rivals — with management skills and the ability to form good relationships with the pension funds for which they are working. These skills, taken individually, are quite rare; in combination they are even rarer. One can go back to the question of how much Carol Galley is worth to Mercury Asset Management. She is at present its striker; she adds the extra zest which has helped to give Mercury the edge in the market. Mercury has more than £80 billion under management. Without her contribution that could well have been 10 per cent less than it is. Eight billion pounds of funds under management has a capital value of about

*William Rees-Mogg*

# Troubles for the victors

As well as facing the people, says Peter Riddell, the parties must face the issues

The next government will squeeze the public sector, increase the proportion of public services that are privately financed and be forced to raise taxes. I write the next government because this will happen whoever wins the election. It has little to do with manifesto pledges. The constraints and options are already clear from the Treasury's Red Book, the economic and fiscal projections published with the Budget eight weeks ago. These figures will not only define the Cabinet's discussion of the Tory manifesto at Chequers a week today, but will this afternoon be accepted by Gordon Brown as providing the overall spending framework for the first two years of a Labour government.

That is why Labour's latest propaganda campaign about a Tory fifth term — centred upon scaring off allegations about VAT on food and a rump NHS — is so irresponsible. Of course there are differences between the parties in their attitudes to the role of the State, but the Labour campaign debases political debate by ignoring the constraints that will be common to any government.

The Tories have said little so far on what they would do in a fifth term.

But there is no real mystery: there

hardly could be after 18 years in office.

Budgetary constraints will remain tight. Many of the assumptions on spending in the Budget were over-optimistic, as last week's report from the cross-party Treasury committee stressed. But any post-election cuts in spending and tax rises should be much less than in 1992-94. So we would be likely to see moves towards the abolition of capital gains and inheritance taxes and, towards the end of the Parlia-



ment, income tax cut to 20p, probably offsetting increases in other taxes on consumers and companies.

Much has been made of a likely rightward shift in the Tory parliamentary party. A new report, *The Conservatives after the Election*, from Rowan Public Affairs, notes that while half the Tory MPs retiring are on the Left, with just a quarter on the Right, half the candidates in winnable seats are on the Right and less than a quarter are on the Left. Such estimates are inevitably imprecise, not least because MPs change their views. This shift matters far more with regard to Europe than domestically, where there is broad consensus within the party. The main constraint in the current Parliament has not been the balance of the Tory party but its dwindling Commons majority.

Given the perhaps heroic assumption

of a comfortable Commons majority, a re-elected Tory government would carry on with privatisation — the Royal Mail, London Underground and a host of medium-sized and smaller public bodies — and with increasing private provision of publicly financed services. Under the umbrella of the Private Finance Initiative, the Government is already planning privately developed and run hospitals within the NHS as well as GP services provided by private-sector organisations, as in the current Bill on primary healthcare. On the same lines, the Government will shortly propose allowing the private sector and voluntary bodies to bid for social services now provided by local authorities. In education, there would

be more grammar schools, more selection and more testing, but also probably private-sector competition within the sector financed by the taxpayer. This would be akin to the successful American experiment of charter schools set up by teachers and parents, which operate within the state sector but are independent.

The biggest challenge would be welfare reform. Peter Lilley has already done a lot to slow the rate of growth of social security spending and has indicated likely ways ahead

of various pilot schemes on helping the long-term unemployed and single mothers back to work. For instance,

the private sector is now being involved and being paid by results in terms of numbers returning to work.

There is a new emphasis on requiring people to take jobs or to train in return for benefit.

Labour objects to many of these proposals, but would face the same spending dilemmas. Gordon Brown will take Labour's approach an important step forward today by saying that a new government would broadly accept the already announced spending totals for two years ahead, not just one. This is to prevent a sudden rise in spending and to allow time for a comprehensive review of spending plans to assess the scope for the phased reallocation of budgets within and between departments. Mr Brown will argue that not all public policies require extra government spending: some involve setting standards and some involve partnerships with the private sector. However, business is wary that setting standards via, for example, the minimum wage and other regulations may represent an indirect form of taxation. Partnership involves accepting private financing of public services — for instance, for a second pension in addition to the basic state one, and the replacement of grants by loans to higher education.

The doubts about a Blair or a re-elected Major government are very different, but both relate to the characters of their respective parties. Mr Brown's aims are correct, and the Shadow Cabinet has endorsed a review of spending priorities, but how many shadow spokesmen, let alone other Labour MPs, really understand, let alone accept, the implications of changing the balance of public and private provision of welfare services? The roots and heart of Labour remain in the public sector.

A re-elected Conservative government would not face such serious internal problems over public spending.

Its weakness would be its deepest divisions and incoherence over Europe, which John Major has occasionally contained but never mastered.

A victorious Mr Major would have, and deserve, a period of triumph, but that would not resolve his party's malaise. Indeed

some on the Tory Right would regard an election victory as a setback to their aims. The case against re-election of Mr Major's Government has less to do with its likely policies than with the unstable state of the Tory party.

# Baton charge

MUSICAL as well as physical changes are imminent for the Royal Opera House, with talk that Bernard Haitink, the highly respected musical director, will soon be stepping down. Haitink is nearing 70, and has had nearly nine years in the post, so when the Opera House closes for two years of renovations this summer, he may consider it an appropriate moment to make way for new blood. Lord Chaddington, the chairman of the Opera House board, has been urging Haitink to stay, but the maestro has yet to give his reply.

What is rattling the woodwind is the candidate looming as Haitink's likely replacement: John Eliot Gardiner, the biggest banana in the "early music" fruitbowl. He recently conducted Massenet's *Chérubin* at the Opera House, but is not felt to be popular with the orchestra. Would he, they ask, be up to conducting their Wagner and Verdi staples? His greatest asset is his knack for publicity and the fact that he has managed to sell even

the unlikeliest of recordings by the truckload.

"Nothing has been decided" was all the Opera House would say. Gardiner's strongest rivals are Danièle Gardi, the former associate musical director at the House, Christoph von Dohnányi, Mark

Eliot Gardiner's son, and

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"Nothing has been decided" was all the Opera House would say.

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Eliot Gardiner's son, and the unlikeliest of recordings by the truckload.

Valery Gergiev, currently the most popular number, the musical director at the Kirov Opera.

Whoever it may be faces a hard job in the immediate future, keeping a notoriously fractious company together for two years on the road, far from the swag and crushed velvet of their Covent Garden home.

## Kennel club

THE STRAY DOG that was adopted by the journalists who camped outside the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima will not be homeless when the long hostage crisis is

over. The Friends of Animals Association is determined to find a Peruvian home for the beast. "He is not just the centre of attraction at the moment. He is a living thing," says María de García, a member of the organisation, who is worried that once the crisis is resolved the animal will be forgotten.

The black-and-white terrier mix has been named "Carpa" after the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement leader Nestor Carpa Cartolini, who had led the bold attack on the Ambassador's residence on December 17 last year. Carpa has become fond of local and foreign journalists, not least because they have been feeding him vast amounts of takeaway pizza and Japanese food over the past four weeks.

As Labour and the Tories spent much of last week in frantic talks to save the Greenwich Millennium Exhibition, one of the nine members of the Millennium Commission was conspicuous by his absence. He was Michael Montague, the businessman and former chairman of the English Tourist Board, who is Labour's sole representative on the commission. Throughout the increasingly desperate late

night meetings he was tapping up the sunshine in Hawaii.

## Full blast

SO TAKEN was Shirley Bassey, the perennial songbird from Tiger Bay, with the acoustics in the Palace of Westminster that she decided to test them properly. Walking through the central lobby after a dinner there recently with Sir Ray Powell, MP for Ogmore, she com-

mented that the acoustics seemed

to be good and — not a being shy girl — promptly belted out two numbers at the top of her voice.

"By God, she has a fine pair of lungs," marvelled one old buffer who stopped to listen.

As the end of the month approaches, those who have given up alcohol for January are anticipating the first refreshing draughts of wine. But not the iron-willed Hartlepool MP, Peter Mandelson.

He is forswearing alcohol until after the general election, to keep his wits about him during this momentous time.

## New ewe

WILLIE RUSHTON is naturally much missed at *The Literary Review* where he was the cover cartoonist. But his successor has already decided what he will be doing for his first magazine front. Chris Riddell, the political cartoonist, will be taking as his subject Lord Byron — whose sexual adventures are analysed in a new biography, which debates whether Byron was actually a sexual hero or a wimp.

Riddell is very partial to drawing sheep. His last book was a useful guide called *Buddhism for Sheep*. "Sheep seeking enlightenment should definitely consult this book," he advises. His next book is likely to be a guide to Feng Shui — the Chinese art of arranging interiors. Also for sheep.

P.H.S



Bringing the House down



## THE EDUCATION VOTE

Why political campaigners mark the classroom so high

Today we publish the first of our "Ballot 97" guides to election issues. These are designed to peel away the party propaganda and analyse as scrupulously as possible the record and the promises in every area of policy. Each week until polling day, our team of *Times* writers will continue this audit, bringing the best of their expertise to bear on the claims, the gloss and the facts. By the end of the long campaign, as we promised last Friday, we hope that readers of *The Times* will be the best equipped in Britain for delivering judgment on their elected rulers.

We begin the series on page 6 today with education, likely to be one of the election campaign's bounciest political footballs. Because of its impact on the economy, education is important to every voter. But a very high proportion are also directly involved because they themselves, their children or their grandchildren are at school, college or university. When asked what issue will be very important in deciding their allegiance, voters cite education second only to health.

As a public service, education is a particularly frustrating issue for parents and grandparents. The difference in quality between the state and private sectors is so great, except at the very top end of the state sector, that many of those who can afford to send their children to private schools tend to do so. The financial impact upon them is enormous. Unlike health, where people can choose to pay the occasional sum for private treatment, education is an all or nothing service. If parents choose the private route, they commit themselves to many thousands of pounds a year for up to 14 years.

Some feel that they are doing so under duress; they would happily switch to the state sector if only it were good enough. The savings they could make would dwarf any tax cut, so the prize to any party which

managed to make state schools as good as they are in Germany could be glittering.

It is not as if the Government has not tried. The Tories can be accused of coming to education late; their first big reform Bill did not reach the statute book until 1988. But since then there has been a raft of measures designed to raise standards. From the introduction of the national curriculum, through testing, league tables and opting out, the idea has been to put pressure on schools to introduce more academic rigour.

For pupils near the top of the ability range, these reforms seem to have made a difference, though still not enough for some parents. More pupils now go to university, pass A levels and gain five or more good GCSEs than five years ago. Even allowing for degree of grade inflation, this is some achievement. The gap between the best and the rest is still, however, far too wide.

In every subject, the range of achievement between the best and least able children is greater in Britain than elsewhere. That is why issues such as homework have political potency. As our features on pages 16 and 17 illustrate, both pupils and parents are ambivalent about the practice. But homework does help to show teachers what children have grasped. And it delivers results. A study by the University of Illinois has found that pupils who had done no homework could rise from the middle of their age group to the top third by working out of school.

In a modern economy which has fewer and fewer jobs for unqualified workers any policy that enables poor performers to catch up must be worth adopting. Labour's call for compulsory homework may sound punitive and centralist. But it seems to have caught the spirit of the times. Too many parents feel that their children are not achieving their potential at state schools. To judge by the polls, the Tories have yet to convince them that their solutions are enough.

## SPEAK OUT FOR BUSINESS

Labour's industrial policies must not go unchallenged

Is all the fuss made in Britain about flexible labour markets just a political diversion? Are businessmen really indifferent to minimum wages, state interference in employment conditions and the whole European "social partnership" agenda of labour regulations and government-mandated trade union power? This will be the impression conveyed by Tony Blair tomorrow morning when he speaks at the launch of a supposedly non-partisan "manifesto for British business", signed by several prominent industrial leaders, including the chief executives of GEC, Legal & General and British Aerospace.

To the surprise of the conference participants and the mild embarrassment of its organisers, Mr Blair will be followed immediately by a previously uninvited speaker, Michael Heseltine. The Deputy Prime Minister's decision to invite himself into the lion's den and deliver a keynote rebuttal to Mr Blair's keynote speech deserves full marks.

In terms of political tactics, Mr Heseltine is obviously trying to upset Mr Blair at a media event carefully orchestrated to convey the impression that business now stands four-square behind Labour. But Mr Heseltine's intervention should be seen as more than a short-term spoiler. It marks a recognition that Ministers will have to work harder than ever to emphasise the coherence of their policies on business, employment and economic growth. Unless the Tories make continuous efforts to raise their voices and draw attention to the successes of the industrial policies of the past 17 years, Labour's natural preference for the social chapter, the minimum wage and the corporatist economic model could go unanswered.

A good example of the challenge the Tories now face was last week's propaganda coup

for Labour, when Ford's decision to stop production at Halewood of its poorly performing Escort model was widely seen as evidence that the relative ease of hiring and firing workers in Britain was destroying jobs. This is a specious argument, which almost no serious economists or business man in Britain or even in Europe, would endorse. Even on the Centre-Left it is now broadly accepted that the jobs created by allowing flexible employment far outweigh the jobs lost by restraining the employer's right to manage the workforce. The jobs "saved" by companies that are forced to act against their own business interests are rarely preserved for long.

Most British businessmen understand such arguments very well, but the Tories may no longer be able to rely on them as vocal cheerleaders. Businessmen still strongly support the free-market reforms introduced by Margaret Thatcher in 1979. They see no advantages and many potential perils in joining the social chapter. They oppose minimum wages unless they are set at such low levels as to have almost no effect. But business are first and foremost interested in doing business — and that includes doing business with whichever Party is in power.

This is especially true of the leaders of large companies which depend on public orders, benefit from special tax concessions or function under close government and European regulation — precisely the sort of companies prominent in Labour's list of the good and the great. The widespread conviction that Mr Blair will probably be the next Prime Minister means that many of the natural spokesmen for pro-business, free-market policies have recently become tongue-tied. In the coming months, Mr Heseltine will have to speak even more frequently and loudly than usual.

## HENRY'S HOARD

When furs and lace were more than luxuries

We should not be surprised that Henry VIII, that rumbustious and expansive radical monarch, had wardrobes full of tiaras, tennis balls and toothpicks. Patient list-makers led by Dr David Starkey of the London School of Economics are on the brink of publishing the inventory of Henry's household at the time of his death; 100,000 items right down to the incomplete chess set which has been a staple item in every English home since that era. But the opulence and extent of the possessions need not strike us as at all odd.

Two glances at contemporary fashion will set Henry's hoard in perspective. If a global television audience is fascinated by Ruby Wax's investigation into the contents of the Duchess of York's fridge, we should remember that preoccupation with royal trivia has a long pedigree. A quick look at last week's newspapers also displays an enduring royal habit of taking care of the image. Diana, Princess of Wales, with an experienced feel for the media, ensured that every photograph which appeared of her during her trip to Angola showed her in working clothes, equipped with pen, serious expression or folders of documents. The symbols conveyed a message: this person means business.

Outward signs of grandeur, power and wealth mattered even more to Henry VIII. His spin-doctors might have claimed the

divine right of kings, but there were foreign powers, fractious nobles and the grandees of the Church to massage all the same. With no newspapers and no television, a sovereign's political image was boosted or damaged by his appearance and immediate surroundings. In an age when power and authority could be conveyed only by word of mouth, the trappings of office or royalty were equipment essential to making the magic work.

Cardinal Wolsey, as he commuted to work from one end of Hampton Court Palace to the other, was preceded as he walked by others who solemnly carried the Great Seal of England, his cardinal's hat, a pair of silver crosses and two silver pillars.

Kings like Henry fluffed up their royal plumage to achieve carefully targeted diplomatic ends. The meeting with Francis I of France at the Field of the Cloth of Gold was one of the most sumptuous picture opportunities of its age. Five thousand people attended Henry and his Queen; six thousand built tents and pavilions on a scale which would put the Millennium Commission to shame. But this conspicuous consumption had a point: to make Spain worry that it might soon face an Anglo-French alliance. It worked. As a royal visit or a deftly timed soundbite may be part modern statecraft, so jewellery, furs and lace were not mere luxuries to Tudor kings.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

### Paying a just price for higher fees in the civil courts

From Mr Francis Macleod Matthews

Sir, It was disappointing to see such a scintillating attack by Sir Richard Scott on the civil court fee increases (report, January 14). These increases were introduced, at least partly, at the suggestion of the Bar and the Law Society, through the Heilbrun committee appointed in 1992 to look at ways in which civil justice could be improved.

It is unlikely that these groups traditionally seen as self-interested would have made a proposal that would deny access to justice to significant numbers of their clients. In fact there are strong arguments in favour of a system under which the user pays for the administrative costs of the civil courts.

Under the English system the unsuccessful party already bears the costs of the other party to the litigation. This has long been thought fair because it is the unsuccessful party who caused them to be incurred. Under the new system, court fees will be recoverable from the unsuccessful party, so this is at most a modest extension of the same principle. Moreover, in contested cases, the court fees pale into insignificance by comparison with lawyers' costs.

At present, irrespective of their means or the merits of their arguments, litigants are subsidised by taxpayers: they do not pay the full cost of the court administration. If litigation costs are to be subsidised, it is only right that the subsidy should be targeted at those who lack means and

whose cases appear to have merit. Legal aid will bear court costs where these criteria are met.

Yours etc,  
FRANCIS MACLEOD  
MATTHEWS,  
12 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.  
January 14.

From Mr A. S. Zuckerman

Sir, Sir Richard Scott, a prominent judge and head of the civil justice system, protests over higher court fees, saying "Access to justice requires that justice should be reasonably accessible without excessive cost. Civil proceedings are already very expensive." But court fees are insignificant, in size and in their effect on access to justice, compared with lawyers' fees.

Lawyers charge their clients by the hour, without limit and regardless of the outcome of the case. As a result the cost of litigation in England is exorbitant, disproportionate and unpredictable.

A survey has revealed that in nearly a third of the cases with a value of less than £2,500, the cost to one party alone is between £10,000 and £20,000; costs in excess of £20,000 were noted in nearly a further tenth of the sample.

We have reached, therefore, the situation where only either the very rich or that shrinking proportion of the poor which the State can still afford to support with legal aid have access to justice.

For the rest of us, taking our griev-

ances to court is simply out of reach. Curiously, judges hardly ever protest about this much more serious constraint on access to justice.

I, for one, would not much mind paying the extra £100 in court fees, to which Sir Richard objects, if, by exerting greater control over litigation, the judge could limit the amount of injurious work done by lawyers and reduce by a few thousand my liability to lawyers' fees which aim is part of the Lord Chancellor's strategy.

Yours sincerely,  
ADRIAN ZUCKERMAN  
(Fellow in Law,  
University College, Oxford,  
January 14.

From Mr Bruce Cairns

Sir, I foresee another serious consequence of the rises in court fees. Where a civil litigant is legally aided, the court fees are paid by the Legal Aid Fund. There will therefore soon be a significant increase in legal aid expenditure as a direct result of the Lord Chancellor's action.

Can we assume that this will be brought to the attention of the public the next time he (or the next Lord Chancellor) bemoans the high cost of providing legal aid?

Yours faithfully,  
BRUCE CAIRNS,  
Morton Fisher (solicitors),  
Bank House,  
12-13 The Foregate, Worcester,  
January 14.

### Disputed criteria for Oxbridge entry

From Dr C. F. Forsyth

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("In praise of the second class", January 15) criticises Oxbridge admissions, with which I have been closely involved for 14 years. Notwithstanding the regular, but increasingly implausible protestations from the examining boards about the maintenance of standards, there are several applicants with three or more grades A at A level (or tipped by their school to do that well) for each Oxbridge place. Consequently, it is simply impossible for admissions tutors to do what Mr Jenkins says they do: adopt mechanistically meritocratic admissions policies in which examination performance is the only relevant criterion.

Today, as in the past, those responsible for admissions have to make judgments in which examination performance is but one factor. This is not always the best guide to potential academic merit. Only the most boneheaded will fail to realise that a mediocre student who is well taught at a good school may do very well in an examination while a very good student badly taught at a bad school will do much less well. Yet that second student is the one who should be offered a place.

So the admissions judgment is complicated and difficult, and mistakes are often made. It is no disgrace not to be made an offer. Nonetheless, the ancient universities (and their colleges) — just like other universities — are committed to academic excellence. It would thus be to deny their nature to make admissions decisions on extraneous criteria such as good "connections".

The most important criterion in admissions must, therefore, always be an assessment — albeit imperfect — of potential academic merit. How could it, in justice, be otherwise?

Yours sincerely,  
CHRISTOPHER FORSYTH,  
Robinson College, Cambridge,  
January 15.

From Mr Simon Parrish

Sir, The views of Simon Jenkins are supported by J. C. Masterman, among other things Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, 1957-58, in his autobiography published in 1975:

The decisive argument is simply this: in selection for entry one should look for promise rather than for previous performance. Mistakes will be made, but the dividends which accrue will far more than compensate for them. The alternative is a college spoilt by uniformity and overpopulated by decent mediocrities.

Yours faithfully,  
SIMON PATTISON,  
Grove Cottage,  
Hooe, Battle, East Sussex.

### Landmines legacy

From the Chairman and the UK Director of Sandy Gall's Afghanistan Appeal

Sir, Bravo, Princess Diana! As an organisation that has the depressingly sad task of picking up the pieces by making artificial legs for Afghan war-wounded, we applaud her initiative (letter, January 17). Since 1988 we have supplied more than 7,000 artificial legs to Afghan men, women and children — nearly all of them mine victims.

Anything that anybody can do to curb the terrible damage caused by mines is enormously worthwhile.

The Princess visited our clinic in Peshawar in September 1991. She saw children who had both legs blown off. She knows what she is talking about.

Yours faithfully,

SANDY GALL (Chairman),  
ELEANOR GALL (UK Director),  
Sandy Gall's Afghanistan Appeal,  
PO Box 145, Tonbridge, Kent,  
January 17.

### Promotion of drugs

From Mr M. I. Webb

Sir, In the light of a recent radio interview ("Pop group banned over 'Ecstasy is safe' claim", report, January 17) should we now consider making the act of promoting the illegal use of drugs a punishable offence?

Yours sincerely,  
MAURICE WEBB,  
Smidby House, Auchencrie,  
Eyemouth, Berwickshire,  
January 17.

### Great survivors

From the Reverend A. C. Courtauld

Sir, In the wake of the magnificent rescue of Tony Bullimore by the Australian Navy you printed a list of other notable survivors ("Tested to the limit", January 10).

May I suggest that such a list might include my late father, Augustine Courtauld, who, while taking part in the British Arctic Air-Route Expedition 1930-31, survived for five months alone in a small tent on the Greenland icecap with no communication with the outside world.

For the last six weeks, while his rations were running out, he was literally entombed by the snow, which completely covered his tent and prevented his escape until the rescue party arrived.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER COURTAULD,  
St Paul's Vicarage,  
32 Wilton Place, SW1,  
January 16.

### Mezzanine melodies

From Mr Stephen Baxter

Sir, Mrs Tullio's letter today about "superior lift music" reminds me of the button which I spinned recently in a lift in a Sydney hotel. It was marked "Cancel Muzak".

Can we hope that this brilliant idea will catch on here?

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN BAXTER,  
16 Milner Street, SW3,  
January 18.

### Labour and schools

From the Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment

Sir, The letters you published on January 16 criticising Labour local government give a rather distorted view of reality. The fact is that many of the innovations which the Government has adopted were first tried out in Labour authorities.

Baseline assessment and targets have been working successfully in Birmingham for several years. Labour authorities like Croydon and Hammersmith and Pulteney have acted promptly to turn failing schools around. Camden gets far better exam results in London than the Tory flagships of Wandsworth and Westminster. Authorities such as Newcastle and Lewisham are leading the way in improving inner-city schools.

The Government has removed many local education authority powers to act, yet then accuses them of failing to do so. However, there are some

LEAs of every political hue which are not doing enough to raise standards in our schools. That is why Labour proposed in 1995 that the Office for Standards in Education and the Audit Commission should have the power to inspect LEAs. A proposal subsequently accepted by the Government is that LEAs should set demanding targets for themselves on how they help schools to improve standards, against which parents and voters can judge their record.

Most of the new initiatives on standards have been proposed by Labour in recent years — and some have been taken up later by the Tories. However, the clear and consistent programme to raise standards put forward by Labour will make a real difference for all schools in a way which the Government's piecemeal approach has not.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW NEWTON (Chairman,  
Social Security Committee),  
The Bow Group,  
92 Bishop's Bridge Road, W2.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5016.



## COURT CIRCULAR

### BUCKINGHAM PALACE

January 18: The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, this afternoon attended the International Rugby Match between Scotland and Wales at Murrayfield, Edinburgh, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh, Mr Eric Milligan, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost.

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK  
January 19: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning. The Bishop of Carlisle preached the Sermon.

Mr M. D. Evison (Headteacher of St George's Church of England School, Dersingham) was received by The Queen when Her Majesty presented a Bible to Master Thomas Wheeler for proficiency in Religious Instruction.

### Birthdays today

Dr Buzz Aldrin, former astronaut, 65; Mr Aubrey Bailey, conservation architect, 55; Mr Tom Baker, actor, 61; Mr Justice Chadwick, 50; Air Marshal Sir David Cousins, 55; Mr Derek Dougan, former football manager and player, 56; the Very Rev D.L. Edwards, former Provost of Southwark Cathedral, 62; Lord Ewing of Kirkford, 56; Sir David Fell, civil servant, 54.

The Hon Sir Henry Fisher, former President, Wolfson College, Oxford, 79; Miss Liza Goddard, actress, 47; Lord Hanson, 75; the Marquess of Headfort, 65; Major Dick Hern, racehorse trainer, 76; Mr J.K. Ind, former Headmaster,

Dover College, 62; Air Vice-Marshal Sir B.H. Lucas, former Chaplain-in-Chief, RAF, 57; Mr David Lynch, film producer, 51; Commandant Vonda McBride, former director, WRNS, 76; Mr Christopher Martin-Jenkins, cricket commentator, 52; Mr Max Morrison, Governor, Parkhurst.

Mr J. E. Prosser, 53; Mr Neil Williams, novelist, 49; Mr John Witherow, Editor, The Sunday Times, 45.

### Service luncheon

#### Hawke Term, January 1997

Members of the Hawke term, the last of the term system, who joined the Royal Naval College Dartmouth on January 20, 1937, marked their 60th anniversary at a luncheon held yesterday at the Royal Naval College Greenwich. Rear-Admiral H.W.E. Hollins pre-

### Funeral service

#### The Venerable Inayat Rumi Shah

The funeral service for the Venerable Inayat Rumi Shah, former Archdeacon of Karachi and father of Bishop Mano Rumi Shah, took place on Saturday, January 18, 1997, at St Mark's Church, Bourne End, Buckinghamshire.

### Nature notes

IN THE cold, damp woods, pheasants stalk across the dead leaves and fly up with loud trumpeting cries when disturbed, their long tails streaming and twisting behind them. Woodcocks lie low where the brambles are still green, and burst up wildly through the prickles when a dog sniffs them out; then they fly away very fast through the trees.

Jays hop about heavily, searching for acorns and beetles in the leaf mould; occasionally they screech loudly, but more often they fly away shyly and silently, and all that is seen of them is a white rump disappearing into the bushes.

There is a burst of song now and then from coal tits and great tits in the treetops. Robins are singing steadily in hawthorn trees and hedges, but wren song has diminished in the undergrowth since the cold spell.

At night, tawny owls are beginning to hoot regularly

again: they are early nesters, sometimes even starting in February if food supplies for the young are plentiful.

There are new carpets of ground ivy leaves in the woodland glades: they are heart-shaped, and release a sweet smell when crushed. Ground ivy is quite unrelated to the evergreen ivy that grows on trees; in the spring it will have luminous blue flowers.

D.J.M.

The tawny owl

writer, Coniston, Cumbria, 1900; Charles Doughty, explorer in Africa, Sissinghurst, Kent, 1926; King George V, reigned 1910-36; Sang-dingharn, 1936; Robinson Jeffers, poet, Carmel, California, 1962; Edmund Blunden, poet and critic, Long Melford, Suffolk, 1974; Johnny Weissmuller, Olympic swimming champion and actor, Florida, 1984.

DEATHS: David Garrick, actor-manager, London, 1779; John Howard, philanthropist and penal reformer, Thersher, 1790; Sir John Soane, architect, London, 1857; Jean Françoise Millet, painter, Barbizon, 1875; R.D. Blackmore, novelist, Teddington, Middlesex, 1900; John Ruskin, critic and

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## OBITUARIES

## NEVILLE CRUMP



Middleham gallops would respond to the bark of his strictures.

Before the turning point in his life, Crump had had, at best, a half-dozen horses in his yard. Within a few months he had thirty and a new yard had to be built. In the subsequent 15 National Hunt seasons, Crump appeared ten times among the top six in the trainers' list — and was first twice.

Neville Franklin Crump was born near Croydon, the son of Charles Crump, who was a superb horseman and later master of foxhounds. He had returned to England after ranching in Australia to marry and retrieve his family fortunes by manufacturing cheese in the West Country. Crump was in the saddle at an early age and in the hunting field.

Resigning from the Army in 1935 he went as assistant, paying a premium for the privilege, to Sonny Hall at Russley Park, near Swindon. Crump then took out a trainer's licence and, at the end of 1937, moved to Upavon on Salisbury Plain.

Despite having only a few horses, he had early success, one of the riders he employed being his exact contemporary, and eventually parallel giant of the National Hunt training scene, Fulke Walwyn. In fact, Walwyn's final winner, before he was forced to retire from the saddle through injury, was for Neville Crump, and a lasting

could tell one anywhere, but you could not tell him much.

Oxford also bestowed other gifts on Crump. He joined the OU Cavalry Squadron, an experience which was invaluable when, on going down, he took a commission in Winston Churchill's old regiment, the 4th Hussars, and began to make a name for himself as a rider in point-to-points.

But his Regular Army career was

relatively brief because he strongly held to the notion that cavalry should be primarily concerned with horses, not men.

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final winner, before he was forced to retire from the saddle through injury, was for Neville Crump, and a lasting

friendship between the two dated from those days.

In 1939 was brought a temporary halt to Crump's training activities. He was recalled into the North Somerset Yeomanry who were dispatched to Palestine. On their conversion into signals unit, however, Crump returned to the UK and in 1941 was ironically in the light of his views put in charge of tank training at Barnard Castle, Co Durham. Here, he grew to love the North of England. By the time the war was over, he had resumed training on a small scale and shortly afterwards moved to Middleham and found an invaluable, talented and loyal ally in the Irish-born rider, Arthur Thompson, himself a former Desert Rat and prisoner of war.

The year after the crucial victory of Sheila's Cottage at Aintree, Crump sent out the first of his five Scottish National winners. This was the brave little horse Wot No Sun, owned by Captain Tom Wilson. Although never

successful in the Grand National itself, he was, nevertheless, runner-up to the great Frightener in 1950, and third to his stable-companion Teal, two years later.

Teal, second of Crump's Grand National triumphs, was another former point-to-point horse, but one who was on offer for sale as a very young horse for only £5 in his native Tipperary. Eventually a brilliant jumper, Teal was bought for £3,000 by the builder, Harry Lane, and when he won narrowly at Aintree in 1952, after a long tussle with Dorothy Page's Legal Joy, he landed an enormous six-figure gamble for his owner.

Teal and Wot No Sun apart, Crump had a further runner in the race: Skryeholme, ridden by Dick Francis. Skryeholme fell, but the previous season had won the Welsh National at Chepstow.

Crump's third and final Grand National victory came in 1960 with Merryman II in the first televised coverage of the big race and the last of its old-style formidable fences before they were modified. Merryman II was yet another ex-point-to-pointer, owned by Winifred Wallace. Winner of the Fonthill's Chase over a circuit of the National course the previous season, it was rated by Crump the best Liverpool horse he ever trained. In 1959 he had won for his trainer a second Scottish National. At Aintree, the fact that he started as the 13/2 favourite, and easily justified the confidence by 15 lengths, was some indication of the

public's faith in Crump's ability, for the horse's preparation had been badly interrupted.

Crump's success was not, of course, confined to the various Nationals. He saddled three winners of the Whitbread Gold Cup — Much Obliged, Hoolywood and Dormant — while in 1962 he was responsible for the first two in the Hennessy Gold Cup. Lord Joicey's Springbok beating his stable-companion Rough Tweed. Among other popular Crump horses were the front-running Shining Gold, Arcurus, Chesapeake Bay, Whispering Grace, Ice Plant, Goosander, and Ballet Lord. The trainer also showed his mastery on the Flat: his winning hurdler Keepaway (the strange name is a dominoes term) also broke the five-furlong record at Thirsk, while Sporting Statue topped the Northern Free Handicap.

Although the peak of his career had been reached by the late Sixties, the stable continued to send out winners, and Crump was 72 years old when, in 1983, Carlton became his fifth Scottish National winner. Only three years before that, he had taken the race with Salford and, in that same season, the Welsh National for a second time with Narvik.

Crump retired in 1989, maintaining to the last a steadfast contempt both for humbug and double-dealing. His robustly Chaucerian sense of humour was matched by a combustible turn of phrase whose directness was a mask for a kind heart. In technical terms, his immense success as a trainer was rooted in meticulous attention to detail, unfailingly running a horse on its merits and, above all, an uncanny understanding of horses. He was a great believer in the use of the loose school for teaching horses to jump and giving them confidence. If a horse fell, he saw it as a failure on his part.

A further uncompromising characteristic was his refusal to train for bookmakers; and if an owner suggested a horse should not run an honest race, that horse was dispatched forthwith from Warwick House. In addition, Crump was well served by a staff and by riders, notably Arthur Thompson, Gerry Scott, and Pat Buckley, the loyalty of all of whom he unstintingly reciprocated.

In 1957 Neville Crump married Sylvia Diana ("Brownie") Bradley. She predeceased him in 1992. He is survived by his daughter, Sarah, whose son Crump had hoped might succeed him at Warwick House. This, sadly, proved not to be feasible.

## STANLEY HYLAND



Stanley Hyland, television producer, died on January 18 aged 82. He was born on January 26, 1914.

STANLEY HYLAND was Harold Wilson's favourite television producer. For many years Wilson insisted on being produced only by Hyland in both party political and ministerial broadcasts — something which would arouse fierce protest from rival spin-doctors today. Wilson's relationship with Hyland was so close that his BBC colleagues nicknamed him Gold Microphone in Waiting.

Hyland's career did not depend on Wilson's patronage, however, for he had a useful all-round background in television. He helped to introduce the now familiar type of Do-It-Yourself programmes. In addition, he wrote three detective novels, including *Who Goes Hang?*, based on his own experience of the House of Commons and which was reviewed enthusiastically by J. B. Priestley.

When he left the BBC he founded HyVision, one of the first organisations to train politicians and industrialists in television techniques. Hyland was Yorkshire-born — one of the factors which helped his relationship with Wilson — and educated at Bradford Grammar School. He came to London, had a

variety of jobs, and studied part-time at Birkbeck College, where he took an arts degree. He then joined the staff of the House of Commons, working for several years in its library.

He began his BBC career with the World Service at Bush House but soon transferred to television in the old Talks Department at Lime Grove, where he came under the eye of the formidable Grace Wyndham Goldie.

He was the producer of *Bucknell's House* — an unlikely production from the intellectually arrogant Talks Department. This was the first television programme to tap the large market of DIY viewers. A house was purchased by the BBC and refurbished week-by-week by the presenter, Barry Bucknell.

Hyland rose to become chief assistant in the BBC's Current Affairs Department, by which time he was specialising in political programmes. Wilson and Hyland formed a mutual attachment through their close association — though in the end this probably did not help Hyland's progress upwards within the corporation. He produced almost all of Wilson's key broadcasts, from his 1964 last election appeal through the "pound in your pocket" devaluation broadcast in 1967 and continuing until Hyland left the BBC to found his own firm.

Somewhat coyly calling it HyVision, he started with a number of useful contracts, including the police and although he eventually ceased to head the firm he remained a consultant for many years.

His life changed tragically in 1994 when a car he was driving was involved in an accident which resulted in his wife being killed and Hyland himself suffering severe injuries. He recovered sufficiently to retire to Bromley, near one of his sons, and only last year managed to pay a last visit to the House of Commons which had dominated his life for so long. He is survived by his two sons.

## PETER DORMER

Peter Dormer, writer on art and design, died of cancer on December 24 aged 47. He was born on January 1, 1949.

FOR nearly twenty years, in a provocative series of exhibitions, lectures and publications, Peter Dormer worked at breaking down the barriers between the various arts, and between the arts and other disciplines. He earned a reputation as an idiosyncratic and combative critic who helped to pioneer public understanding of contemporary crafts. His published studies, including *The New Jewellery* (1985), *The New Ceramics* (1986) and *The Meanings of Modern Design* (1990), became standard works.

Peter Andrew Dormer was born in Fakenham, Norfolk. From 1955 onwards the family home was on a skimpily designed new council estate in Cambridge. Nonetheless, it was at this time that Dormer first recognised the potential of modern design.

He studied painting at Bath

Academy of Art and in Manchester, before going on to read philosophy at Bristol University, developing there a passion for logic, aesthetics and the philosophy of science. This was followed by a time working in local government and, if his ability to see both sides of a question hampered decision-making, he honed his already sharp debating skills along with the political awareness which was to characterise his work.

In 1978 Dormer began to write for *Art Monthly* magazine, contributing a regular and typically polemical column. By the early 1980s he decided to turn to writing full-time. He was assistant editor of the Crafts Council magazine.

He is survived by his wife Jane, whom he married in 1974 and who cared for him devotedly throughout his long fight against cancer. There were no children.

## SIR JOHN MAY



John May, PC, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, died on January 15 aged 73. He was born on June 28, 1923.

IN 1989, aged 66, John May took early retirement from the Court of Appeal in order to spend more time with his family at their Dorset home. But release from a heavy workload was not to last long. Within 12 months he had been snapped up by the Home Office to conduct in-depth inquiries into two of the more controversial cases of recent times: those of the Guildford Four and the Maguire Seven.

His humanity and integrity were well proven. Ten years earlier, while still a High Court judge, he had been chosen by James Callaghan's Labour Government to lead a far-reaching investigation into the prison service. The result was a seminal report which urged the closure of insanitary old jails and the building of new ones. To help to prevent overcrowding in Britain's prisons, it also called for a reduction in jail sentences for the mentally and socially disabled and for those convicted of only minor offences. With the same end in view, it proposed an extension to the parole and remission system. Finally, May and his committee recommended a new, more rigorous, scheme for prison inspections, to be led by a fiercely independent chief inspector.

With a distinguished legal career also behind him, May was immediately in the frame when, in 1989, the Home Office needed someone to investigate the saga of the so-called Guildford Four. The Four had been given life sentences in 1975 after the IRA pub bombings in Guildford and Woolwich of the previous year. Their convictions were quashed by the Court of Appeal in 1993, following a long campaign to prove their innocence.

A complication which delayed May's inquiry was the trial — and subsequent acquittal — of three former police officers, charged with fabricating evidence. As it was, May's final report in 1993 acknowledged that after so many years it was impossible to establish the whole truth behind the story. But he supported the Court of Appeal's decision to quash the convictions and he asked questions of various bodies, including the Attorney-General's department and the Home Office.

While he could not identify those responsible, his main concern was to try to ensure that such miscarriages of justice did not recur. The establishment of the Criminal Cases Review Commission was among the indirect results of his inquiry. The Maguire Seven had been convicted in 1976 of allegedly running an IRA "bomb factory" in Kilburn, north London. They had served their sentences, and one of them had died in prison, still protesting his innocence.

May, who was involved in both this and the Guildford Four inquiry at the same time, brought out his final report in 1992 and was no less severe in 1993 than he was later to sound in his strictures on the

Guidford case. He was critical of the Maguire trial judge, Lord Donaldson of Lymington, of government scientists who had given evidence and of those other judges who had first turned down the subsequent appeals. He also accused the press of creating a climate of guilt before the trial had begun by referring to the house involved as a "bomb factory". May concluded that the seven defendants had been the victims of a "serious miscarriage of justice".

May's own background was somewhat unusual for a judge. Born in Japan as John Douglas May, he was the son of a Shanghai-based British

businessman. He won a scholarship to Clifton College where he became head boy — and was to be told of his father's early death just as he was about to sit his Higher School Certificate (the precursor of A levels). He was later to learn that his mother and aunt had been interned by the Japanese in a concentration camp in the Philippines.

Nevertheless, he won another scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford, where he subsequently took a double first in maths and physics before being swept up by the Second World War. Commissioned into the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, he specialised in radar and radio and at

the time served as a lieutenant in the cruiser HMS Belfast — now a museum piece in the Pool of London.

On being demobilised, May read for the Bar and was called by the Inner Temple in 1947. He took silk in 1965 at the age of 42.

As a barrister he first specialised in insurance and personal injury cases, although he later developed his talents to cover a wider field.

In the late 1960s he represented the North Thames Gas Board at the inquiry which followed the collapse of Roman Point, the tower block of flats in east London.

He was made Recorder of Maidstone in 1971 and became leader of the South East Circuit the same year. Appointed to the High Court, he was presiding judge of the Midlands and Oxford Circuit, 1973-77, then promoted, being sworn of the Privy Council at the same time, to the Court of Appeal in 1982.

He served at various times as a judge of the Employment Appeals Tribunal, as a member of the Parole Board and, again after he had retired, as the most senior judge represented on the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice of 1991-93. He was treasurer of the Inner Temple in 1993, chaired the University Commissioners, 1989-93, was president of the Clifton College Council at one time.

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## Church appointments

The Rev Brenda Campbell, Curate, Rothley; to be Associate Priest, Market Bosworth w Shenton, Cadeby, Sutton Cheney and Congerstone (Leicester). The Rev Noel Carter, Team Rector, Penrhyn (Carlisle); to be Priest-in-charge, St Brigid's, Cricklade (Wiltshire). The Rev Alan Comfort, Assistant Curate, Chadwell Heath, St Chad; to be Assistant Curate, Buckhurst Hill, in charge of St Stephen and St Elizabeth (Chelmsford). The Rev David Couling, Priest-in-charge, Great Glemham, Master of Great Glemham Hospital and Rural Dean of Harnepool; to be Vicar, Great Glemham, remaining Master of Great Glemham Hospital and Rural Dean of Harnepool (Durham). The Rev Clive Evans, Curate, Sutton Cheney and Congerstone (Leicester). The Rev Simon Gales, Curate, Houghton, Lindow (Cheshire). The Rev Timothy Girling, Chaplain, Glenfield and Glenfrith Hospitals (Leicester); to be an Honorary Canon of Leicester Cathedral. The Rev Robert Harrison, Assistant Curate, St Gabriel's, Cricklade; to be Vicar, St John, Hillington (London). Canon Colin Johnson to be a Canon Emeritus of Carlisle Cathedral. Prebendary Keith Jukes,

Team Rector, Cannock Team Ministry and Vicar, Hatherope (Lichfield); to be Vicar, Selby Abbey (York).

The Rev David King, Chaplain, Andover War Memorial Hospital; to be also Priest-in-charge, Smannell w Enham Alamein (Winchester).

The Rev Leslie Lawrence, Assistant Curate, Holy Trinity, Moulsworth; to be Priest-in-charge, St Mary the Virgin, Norwood Green (London).

The Rev John Leonard, Vicar, St Theodore of Canterbury, Leicester (Leicester); to be also an Honorary Canon of Leicester Cathedral.

The Rev Robert Harrison, Priest-in-charge, Everwood; to be Vicar, Everwood (Durham).

The Rev George Liddle, Priest-in-charge, Kichmond; to be Vicar, Kichmond (Ripon).

The Rev Peter Midwood, Vicar, Swaledale and Fellowship of Vocation Chaplain for Kichmond archdeaconry; to be also Rural Dean of Kichmond (Ripon).

The Rev Michelle Lockhart, part-time Assistant Chaplain,

## ODEON CINEMA

THE BLUE LAMP

It is not only foreigners who find the English policeman wonderful, and, in composing this tribute to him, the Ealing Studios are giving conscious expression to a general sentiment.

The tribute is a handsome one, and the only pity is that there is not a little more genuine realism in the phrasing. Of the kind of realism that concentrates on getting details right there is plenty, and it is easy to believe that Scotland Yard co-operated in the making of the film, but when it comes to the drawing of character, the director's hand fails him and he falls back on presenting types and the kind of dialogue that goes with them.

The police station and the routine that goes on there, the infinite care over trivialities, the scientific aids in the prevention and detection of crime, the work of the police cars and of the man on the beat, all these find their true reflection on the screen; when the

## ON THIS DAY

January 20, 1950

Jack Warner, as PC Dixon, your friendly local British bobby, was shot by Dirk Bogarde, as a new type of young delinquent in reekless mood

## NEWS

## Brown aims to freeze spending

■ Gordon Brown will today announce a two-year clampdown on public spending under Labour and warn the unions that the prolonged squeeze on the pay of six million state sector employees will go on.

The Shadow Chancellor, delivering his most austere message yet to Labour politicians, union chiefs and local government leaders, is to reveal that a Labour Government would freeze overall public spending for two years at the levels announced by Kenneth Clarke in the last Budget. Page 1, 20

## Hate group targets sports stars

■ British sports stars Sharron Davies and Frank Bruno are believed to be among the targets of a letter-bomb campaign by the right-wing group Combat 18. Other athletes in mixed-race relationships are also feared to be on a hit-list. Page 1, 4

## Carey's retreat

After 500 speeches, 43 foreign trips, 44 consecrations of bishops and 220 television broadcasts, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has given up his duties for a two-month sabbatical. Page 1

## Kohl challenged

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, challenged Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, to spell out the limits he would place on moves towards a European superstate. Page 2

## Tory hit squads

Tory election strategists are to target Labour-dominated local education authorities to undermine Tony Blair's stance over the central issue of school standards. Page 2, 6, 21

## Vicar snubbed

A group of parishioners in Ropley, near Winchester, who are boycotting their village church were celebrating after their first rival prayer meeting proved more popular than a service conducted by the local vicar. Page 3

## Lord of Books

J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* has been voted the Book of the Century by the buying public. Many critically acclaimed names such as T.S. Eliot, Ernest Hemingway, Thomas Mann or Samuel Beckett failed to make it into the top 100 list selected by 25,000 voters. Page 4

## Arresting sermon on high

■ An Episcopalian priest in Brooklyn has been arrested after police found him allegedly smoking crack cocaine in the rectory while writing his Sunday sermon. The Rev Canon Chester LaRue, 54, said he had first used the drug to show an addict how easy it was to kick the habit. "Holy goodness," said a parishioner. "I didn't even think he smoked cigarettes." Page 11

## Clinton's message

At his inauguration today, President Clinton will use his speech to assert that Government has a central role in improving people's lives. Page 11

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## CRICKET: TOUR FORTUNES TAKE TURN FOR BETTER DESPITE ATHERTON'S CONTINUING POOR RUN

## Condition of Cork casts cloud over Test preparation

FROM ALAN LEE  
IN HAMILTON

**DOMINIC CORK**, the most influential figure in the belated kick-starting of England's winter tour, was last night strapped in a corset to immobilise a back injury threatening otherwise serene preparations for the first Test against New Zealand.

Cork's participation in that match, indeed in the rest of the tour, was clouded in a cruel uncertainty only a fortnight after he joined the England party on finishing a spell of compassionate leave.

He left the field after bowling nine overs at the start of the Northern Districts' second innings and dismissing Bryan Young, the New Zealand Test opener, cheaply for the second time in the match.

"At the moment it looks relatively serious in that he is struggling to move," Wayne Morton, the team physiotherapist, said. "We threw everything at him when he came off the field. He had manipulation, massage, ice treatment and anti-inflammatory tablets.

The back is taped in a rigid corset, which makes it look worse, but it may be 48 hours before we know the extent of the damage."

The sobering expression on Morton's face, however, illustrated the natural fears that it might just as easily be something far more serious, something that would jeopardise England's strategy against the New Zealanders at a time when confidence and direction was being restored to the tour.

Cork's priceless ability to bowl outswings at will has already exposed several senior New Zealand batsmen, reassuring after the problems that have recently beset him. A summer spent struggling for his best form against the handicaps of fatigue and suspect knees was followed by a high-profile split with his wife, Jane, which led to him missing the Zimbabwe leg of the tour.

Cork returned uncomfortably to the team hotel immediately after play last night, missing an engagement at a barbecue thrown by the local cricket association. Morton explained that his condition would be monitored through today before it was decided whether to seek specialist treatment.

Further problems for the party are being caused by a flu virus. Three players — Craig White, Alan Mullally and Nick Knight — have so far been affected although all have been able to play in the present match.



Cork is bowed by the back injury that threatens his future participation in the tour of New Zealand. Photograph: Graham Chadwick / Allsport

## England gathering momentum

FROM ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT  
IN HAMILTON

**HAMILTON (second day of four, England XI won toss): Northern Districts, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 126 runs behind an England XI**

BARELY a fortnight after retreating from Zimbabwe to a chorus of derision that has disfigured reputations and questioned futures, England are tackling a different challenge, on a different continent, with the confidence of a remarkably different team.

Hard though it may be to comprehend, they are suddenly wearing the look of winners.

The health of the nation's cricket being notoriously fragile, it is too soon to be sanguine, but the portents in New Zealand are so favourable that even the alarming sight of Dominic Cork limping off the field yesterday, during a final session batten of wickets, could not distort the impression that England are hardening favourites to win the three-Test series that starts in Auckland on Friday.

A weekend of domination between blustery showers left England pressing for a second innings win within a week. The opposition may have

looked feeble for much of the two days at this pleasant city centre ground, but only those who suffer the British affliction of demeaning victories and wallowing in defeats will make much of this. England's purposeful cricket held sway until the spirited resistance of Blair Pocock and Matthew Bell obliterated thoughts of a two-day finish.

But for Michael Atherton's persistent batting doldrums, the shape and readiness of the England team for Auckland is encouraging. Graham Thorpe, a distressed figure in Zimbabwe, has made runs and there have been wickets for all the quicker bowlers. The remaining conundrum, fitness issues apart, is whether to play one or two spinners against a team traditionally uncomfortable when the ball turns.

England's initial instinct is to play two, and I hope they do not resist it, as so often happens when Test day dawns. Philip Tufnell, whose public contributions yesterday were a session of lapping the ground (he is taking his fitness more seriously these days) and a spell on the adjacent bouncy castle, has a psychological grip over certain New Zealand batsmen, an advantage that must not be wasted.

There was no need for either spin bowler as this match began with Northern Districts being dismissed in a session. The batting was inept, especially against the swinging ball, but there was much to commend about the England bowling and particularly the

skill and accuracy of Cork with the new ball.

Atherton failed again on Saturday — out leg-before to a ball that first took the inside edge — and it will take more than his diligence against a bowling machine in the indoor nets to cure a distressing sequence that has brought

him only 114 runs from ten first-class innings on tour.

Outwardly unconcerned by his personal strife, Atherton has privately been analysing it in his usual thorough way and decided that a greater enemy than any minor technical blips is the tension that grips every struggling batsman, without regard for stature. "I don't feel as if I am doing much wrong but I keep getting out, and the longer that goes on the more tense I become at the start of an innings," he said. "It is a natural reaction and the only cure is to spend time in the two-day finish.

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## Tendulkar's declaration involves risk

FROM JOHN WOODCOCK IN JOHANNESBURG

**JOHANNESBURG (fourth day of five): South Africa, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, need 352 runs to beat India**

THE third Test match between South Africa and India is turning out to be a wonderfully good one, with both sides eyeing the main chance. In theory, anyway, it could hardly be more finely balanced.

For the last two days the crowd has very much entered into things, having done all they could to lift the home side but still appreciating the lively and determined contribution made by the Indians.

The only slightly jarring note

came yesterday evening when Azharuddin, having been given out leg-before to Pollock, for two, did rather too much huffing and puffing and looking and lurking — perhaps reacting to words from Pollock — for which he was "severely reprimanded" by the match referee, Barry Jarman, the same B. J. who kept wicket for Australia in the 1960s.

Jarman, who did not quite

know what Pollock

meant by "I have taken into consideration his unblemished record during 13 years in Test cricket."

Historically, a target of 356

in the fourth innings of a Test match, which was what South Africa were set, has almost always proved out of reach. If the weather holds, however, and it was lovely yesterday — three crucial factors should, in this instance, be in favour of the chasing side: the Indian bowling has decided limitations, the pitch is playing very well and the outfield is fast.

Tendulkar, in a brief appearance, showed what he wanted of his side, and, as in India's first innings, David and Ganguly shared a three-figure partnership. David, particularly, playing some sparkling strokes while adding an innings of 81 to the 148 he made on Friday.

It is disappointing that Cronje should be as wary as he is of using the joker in his pack, who is Adams. I am not sure that he quite appreciates the possibilities that Adams represents.

By yesterday, when India were 177 for three, Adams had bowled only seven overs. He is the sort of bowler, I suppose, that most modern captains, not only Cronje, do not quite trust, though in his six Test matches before this one he had taken 27 wickets, a striking rate well above the average. If he gets hit for a couple of boundaries in an over, which is bound to happen, to no orthodox bowler, off he comes.

To give a modern captain his due, Tendulkar declared last night when many others, not only of this generation, would have batted on, even into today, to make sure of not losing. His reward was the wicket of Hudson, taken when Kumble was brought on to bowl the last over of the day.

Tendulkar is not only a great little batsman: he has vision too.

**ENGLAND: First Innings 410 (R. S. David 148, P. C. Ganguly 73). Second Innings**

W. R. Morgan c & b Adams ..... 60

H. S. David c & b Adams ..... 148

R. S. Tendulkar c & b Adams ..... 9

A. Kumble c & b Adams ..... 14

B. A. Adams c & b Adams ..... 4

D. S. Virender not out ..... 0

Extras (2 b, 6 n, 1 nb) ..... 21

Total 410 wicket drag ..... 410

**PAKISTAN: First Innings 140. Second Innings**

W. R. Morgan c & b Adams ..... 140

R. S. David c & b Adams ..... 148

H. S. Ganguly c & b Adams ..... 73

A. Kumble not out ..... 0

A. D. Adams c & b Adams ..... 2

P. C. Ganguly c & b Adams ..... 14

R. S. Tendulkar c & b Adams ..... 14

A. Kumble c & b Adams ..... 14

Extras (2 b, 6 n, 1 nb) ..... 21

Total 140 wicket drag ..... 140

**ENGLAND: First Innings 140. Second Innings**

A. C. Haddin c & b Adams ..... 140

G. Klassen c & b Adams ..... 14

A. M. Statham c & b Adams ..... 14

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## ATHLETICS

# Exit of Radford highlights splits in BAF structure

BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Peter Radford was accused by a former aide during the weekend of deserting a sinking ship, the vessel in question was less the *Titanic*, more Tony Bullimore's *Exide Challenger*. The British Athletic Federation (BAF) floating upside down rather than disappearing beneath the waterline.

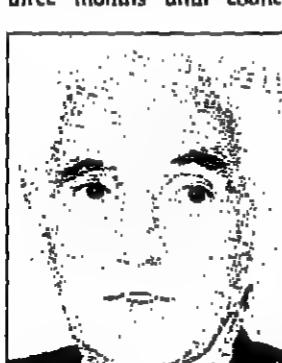
Radford's decision to resign as the BAF executive chairman took everybody by surprise: management board, council and British Athletes' Association (BAA) included. It was, in no small measure, because of Radford's frustration at the lower end of the sport dictating to the top. While capsized like that, it cannot progress.

The BAF management board, scheduled to meet next month, will hold an emergency meeting this week after Radford, two weeks short of his third anniversary in the job, announced on Saturday that he would be leaving to take up a post as professor and head of sports sciences at Brunel University. The board must decide whether to seek a direct replacement, redefine the role or, perhaps, appoint more than one leader. Speculation on a successor is, therefore, premature.

Radford felt dragged down by the anchor of the BAF council, comprising some 50 people. A successor would have to be "given the freedom I was never given". Aged 57, and on 12 months' notice, he is likely to remain in his post until September, when the academic year begins, giving

the federation time to guard against hasty decisions.

Geoff Parsons, the BAA director with whom Radford had worked closely in recent months, is adamant, too, that the professional end must be permitted to think for itself. "The next person will be no more successful than Peter if his hands are tied behind his back," Parsons said. "We need a management structure for people to make decisions instead of delaying them for three months until council



Radford: no freedom

meets. Peter was undoubtedly frustrated at the structure.

"The council is the governing body of British athletics but the people there are little factions concerned with club and area issues. I ask: 'Where is the British view?'

Nobody asks about the British policy for disabled athletics or the national stadium. There are 50 people each fighting their own corner. They do not make decisions in the best interests of Britain."

## Brown's defiant run comes to muddy end

JON BROWN'S unbeaten cross-country season, during which he has claimed a succession of distinguished scalps, came to a muddy end in Seville yesterday (David Powell writes).

Brown was not so much outpointed as outwinkled by Paulo Guerra, whom he deposed as European champion last month, in a World Cross Challenge race.

Describing the conditions as "the worst I have ever raced in", Brown led with 100 metres of the ten-kilometre course to go. However, unable to exert enough grip to sprint in calf-deep mud and rainwater, Brown was passed by Guerra, whose victory, in 29min 57sec, put him two seconds ahead of the Briton. Paul Tergat, the world champion from Kenya, was third five seconds farther back.

Brown's run of success had begun in December with a victory over Tergat in the Lludno race in Spain. Then he denied Guerra a third successive European title win in Charleroi and defeated Daniel Komen, the 3,000 metres world record-holder. In

it was Brown who pushed the pace on with three kilometres remaining to reduce the leading group to three but, slipping as he went, he was unable to sustain a burst to drop either Guerra or Tergat.

"I felt I had a win in me but there were not enough places to go hard and wear down the opposition," Brown said.

Ian Mackie, who is expected to succeed Linford Christie as Britain's No 1 100 metres runner next summer, won his first indoor 60 metres of the season in the Scottish championships in Glasgow yesterday.

While Colin Jackson maintained progress towards a 60 metres hurdles and flat double at the world indoor championships in Paris in March, winning the hurdles in 7.05sec, Mackie — who won the sprint in 6.73sec — said he would be missing the world event.

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Radford gave not the slightest hint that he was considering an offer to go back to academia when interviewed by *The Times* last Tuesday. He was, to use the vague word, focused, concentrating on playing the part of a chairman who had no thought of leaving, though he must have known he probably would. Radford said he made his decision on Friday.

He included himself in statements about the sport's future. "I am very confident we have a good future with our sponsors," he said. After the departure of Tony Ward, the BAF spokesman, Radford said that "on the major issues it is almost certain I shall be the spokesman." No indication at all that he was about to leave. "I believe the sport has a bright horizon," he added.

When Radford took office, he said that "the plight of the clubs is very serious," acknowledged that he had been elected by them and added that "the 'us' and 'themness' has now been broken." However, his perceived preoccupation with the elite gave rise to voices of discontent and moves were afoot among the clubs to have him removed, or his powers limited.

Radford's anger with the amateurs was evident last week when he criticised their reluctance to accept a registration scheme. "Faced with the question 'How do you want to resource your sport?' the answer was: 'Let somebody else fund it,'" he said.

His relationship with the press was most uncomfortable and probably contributed towards his decision. He booted over last week when one newspaper listed a "dossier of disasters", highlighting losses of £750,000, the departure of Ward, Frank Dick and Andy Norman, rows with Michael Johnson, Linford Christie and Colin Jackson, and declining sponsorship, television and spectator income.

"All staff are affected by the things they read in the newspapers," Radford said. He insisted that he had been involved in a great deal of meaningful, useful and valuable work." He noted improved relations with athletes, a performance plan for National Lottery funding, ensuring athletics was part of the new national stadium, and support for disabled athletes.

Radford accused the media of "a pessimism and cynicism which is not in the office" and said his new job is more appealing for carrying only minor media interest. Students may appreciate his lectures but journalists and athletes did not.

"I am doing what is best for me," Radford said of his decision. In a week marked by splits, it was better that Radford should take the Chris Evans way out, and leave voluntarily, rather than, like Brian Harvey of East 17, be shown the door.

Colin Jackson maintained



Terry and Sharon Davies welcome youngsters to the "Young Olympians" initiative on Saturday

## Scheme to spot talent at a stroke

BY JOHN GOODBODY

SHARRON DAVIES summed it up neatly. "We have a wealth of talent for swimming in Britain," she said, "but we either lose it or we never find it."

To help to raise the standard, her father, Terry, has launched a programme in south London to screen up to 3,000 schoolchildren between the ages of five and 11 each year. The scheme is called the "Young Olympians", and on Saturday scores of youngsters were being assessed in the first free open day at Camberwell Leisure Centre.

Terry Davies said: "We are going in at absolutely grassroots level. We are not looking at a short-term fix. Our aim is long-term. Our goal is four years away for some, but eight years for others."

The Sports Council hopes that the initiative will be copied across London. "Imagine if the rest of the country

then followed," Terry Davies said. "It is surely worth giving it a try."

More than 100 schools in the borough of Southwark have been circularised for youngsters to attend the open days, which will focus on water safety but also include introductions to all the main water disciplines: swimming, diving, water polo and synchronised swimming.

The scheme is being backed by Adidas Sportsmatch — a Government funding scheme

— and the Sports Council and Southwark Council, and takes the youngster from beginner to, it is hoped, Olympian. Those attending the open days must be able to swim 25 metres, the minimum requirement in the national curriculum for any child aged 11.

The early concentration will be on assessing the ability of individuals to be safe in the water. They will then be invited to continue swimming weekly in supervised classes. This is stage two.

Terry Davies, who has coached such internationals as Helen and Andy Jameson and Paul and Robin Brew, as well as his daughter, said: "I assess youngsters by looking at their co-ordination, their flexibility, range of movement, and whether they can respond to instruction. This is different from wanting to do something. It is actually being able physically to carry out our directions. And they must also enjoy swimming."

The response of Jasper Sanders, aged nine, from St Paul's Primary School in Walworth, was welcome. He said: "I like to do competition because it's fun."

In the weekly two-hour sessions, one hour will be devoted to swimming and the second to the competitive activity or to diving, water polo or synchronised swimming. The talented and dedicated swimmers then move to stage three, when they can join the Tigersharks club, which will run daily sessions at Camberwell, Crystal Palace or Allyans School.

The final stage is when the best youngsters concentrate on international competition, alongside swimmers such as Emma Tatjam, a Great Britain international back-stroker. Despite its popularity and traditional strength, only two Londoners represented Great Britain at the 1992 and 1996 Olympics. By 2000, there should be more.

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The final stage is when the best youngsters concentrate on international competition, alongside swimmers such as Emma Tatjam, a Great Britain international back-stroker. Despite its popularity and traditional strength, only two Londoners represented Great Britain at the 1992 and 1996 Olympics. By 2000, there should be more.

The early concentration will be on assessing the ability of individuals to be safe in the water. They will then be invited to continue swimming weekly in supervised classes. This is stage two.

Terry Davies, who has coached such internationals as Helen and Andy Jameson and Paul and Robin Brew, as well as his daughter, said: "I assess youngsters by looking at their co-ordination, their flexibility, range of movement, and whether they can respond to instruction. This is different from wanting to do something. It is actually being able physically to carry out our directions. And they must also enjoy swimming."

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**Mel Webb** says young golfers have much to gain from exciting new sponsorship

## Leadbetter joins search for next Faldo

**I**t has passed into the modern folklore of golf that the sight on television of a majestic Jack Nicklaus winning the Masters inspired a sports-mad teenager from Welwyn Garden City to abandon his sport of preference, which at the time was cycling, and take up the Royal and Ancient game.

That was in the Seventies. In the Eighties, the two years in which the same young fellow withdrew from the arc light of celebrity to put himself, and his game, into the care of a little-known British-born Zimbabwean coach, have come to acquire the same sort of fabled quality as his initial enchantment with the game.

The young golfer was Nick Faldo, the teacher who dismembered his swing and created a player who has gone on to win six major championships. David Leadbetter, Faldo's coach, has been the front-of-house attraction in their partnership. Leadbetter, the Svengali content to pull the instructional strings behind the scenes. It is the way the

modest Leadbetter prefers it;

he is probably the best-known golf coach in the world, but it is typical of him that the part he has played in the development of an important new initiative to encourage and nurture talented young players has been as discreet as it has been essential.

The Daihatsu Junior Golf Tour, in association with *The Times*, has been created to give added impetus to the pioneering work put in over the past three years by an unassuming and enthusiastic chartered surveyor from Kent.

Colin Springate created the tour in its original form in 1994 after Daniel, his son and son, a member of a club that had no organised junior section, found that as an eight-handicapper he was getting little chance to play in fair competition with others of a similar standard.

Daniel was becoming tired of being beaten with net 60s by opponents who held dubious handicap certificates showing that they played off 20 when, had they submitted cards more regularly, they would have been a good ten shots lower. At the same time, Springate Jr and others playing off high single figures were just outside the standard re-



Springate, centre, leads a bunch of young hopefuls on a reconnaissance of the course at Chart Hills where the Tournament of Champions will be held next November

quired for such things as selection for county teams. For these youngsters, good and improving players, the competitive outlook was bleak.

Springate Sr, who does not play himself, looked into his son's complaint and found it was justified. Thus was born the competition that has now taken a quantum leap forward with a three-year sponsorship commitment by Daihatsu (UK), together with support from *The Times*.

Daihatsu's arrival on the scene has added lustre to what was already a successful competition under Springate's dedicated stewardship. For a start, it has enabled Springate, who manages to earn a living in these increasingly rare moments when not involved in tour arrangements, to become a full-time tournament director. Previously, he had funded the tour himself, even down to footing the bill for the match-

ing clothing that is provided for the boys.

Springate is now based in Dorset, but when still living in Kent he took an event to Chart Hills, the European headquarters of Leadbetter's worldwide coaching academy. There he fell into conversation with Leadbetter, who was making one of his periodic visits to his base at the Faldo-designed course. They chatted for 90 minutes and Leadbetter was so taken with the scheme that he swiftly became its patron.

"He has been terrific,"

Springate said. "He rings me

every couple of weeks or so to

### DAIHATSU JUNIOR TOUR DATES

#### NATIONAL TOUR

April 12: East Sussex National, May 6: Turnberry, June 30: Hillsdon, July 7: Coligny Park, August 1: Royal Birkdale, August 15: The London Club, August 22: Royal Lytham and St Annes, September 16: Chart Hills, October 27: Forest of Arden.

#### NORTHERN TOUR

April 22: Macclesfield, May 6: St Annes, June 3: Morecambe, July 12: Forest of Arden, September 12: Royal Tunbridge Wells, October 26: The Buckinghamshire.

1997 having trodden the fairways of some of the finest courses in the United Kingdom — Open Championship venues such as Turnberry, Royal Birkdale and Royal Lytham and St Annes are on the national tour route.

John Hopkins, the golf correspondent of *The Times*, is an enthusiastic supporter of the venture. "I grew up playing junior golf in Gloucestershire and North Wales in the mid-Sixties," he said. "From my contemporaries came a full senior England international, several captains of the county team and numerous county players."

Similarly, the contributions made to Welsh golf by those with whom I played 30 years ago is enormous. Some of them played for Wales, some became leading lights in their own clubs and counties and others moved into the ranks of amateur administrators.

I had great fun playing in junior matches and junior events which had been organised by far-sighted and hard-working people and I fully expect those who are brought to the junior game in the Nineties by the efforts of the Junior Golf Tour to experience similar benefits."

The competitions could not have had a better or more committed patron than Leadbetter. "The tour has been set up in such a way as to provide a real test for youngsters who believe they have the talent to go on and compete at a higher level in the future," he said. "I am thoroughly looking



Springate: driving force

forward to giving the winners tuition at Lake Nona."

Daihatsu, too, is throwing its weight behind the revamped competition that will bear its name. "It's great to be a major part of a genuinely new sponsorship initiative which doesn't come with the usual hangover of past sponsors," Paul Williams, chief executive officer of Daihatsu (UK), said.

"Like the Junior Golf Tour, Daihatsu will be expanding over the next three years, and the tour will help us to raise our brand profile throughout the UK. We'll be delighted if a future champion emerges as a result of the tour. If we can help them to achieve success, it will make us very happy."

## BALLROOM DANCING

**Hiltons** resolve to remain best in the world

**Ruth Gledhill** talks to the British couple whose ambition is undimmed by years of success at the highest level of their sport

**M**ARCUS and Karen Hilton are the world champions and will be remembered as one of the most outstanding couples in competitive ballroom dancing, but they were preparing for their first competition of the year last night with a determination to hold on to the impressive array of titles that they have held for up to seven years running.

At the Open UK championships in Bournemouth this week, the Hiltons, from Rochdale, aged 36 and 35 respectively, will take on their closest rivals, Luca Baricchi and Lorraine Barry, as well as Augusto Schiavo and Caterina Arzenton, of Italy, who are also snapping at their heels. Nevertheless, the odds are in the Hiltons' favour, for they have been working hard at their usual punishing training schedule at their studio in Streatham, south London.

The UK competition, which starts on Wednesday, comes weeks before the ballroom dancing world learns whether it has been granted full recognition as an Olympic sport, after gaining provisional recognition nearly two years ago. Professionals are already seeking sponsorship and funding for youngsters in an attempt to maintain Britain's supremacy at the sport, since Olympic recognition looks likely.

As amateurs, the Hiltons were an example of a couple who were fortunate to receive the support of their local council, which gave them grants to help them to compete, and the backing of their MP, then Sir Cyril Smith.

Coaches today are concerned that too few amateurs receive similar support and that valuable talent is being lost just at the time when it is most needed, due to the strict rules that prevent amateurs from teaching or earning money from dancing in this country.

Since forming their partnership in 1978, the Hiltons have taken the Open British championship five times, the world championship seven times and the European championship five times. Unusually, because few dancers succeed in mastering both modern — or "standard" — and Latin disciplines, they were the world Latin American champions as amateurs and took the world ten-dance title, the dance equivalent of the decathlon, in 1986 as professionals.

"We have been champions for so long, everybody is there to beat us," Marcus Hilton said. "They stay at the top by never taking their supremacy for granted and by constantly working to eradicate faults in their dancing."

Hilton said: "We treat every competition like a battle. Every one is different. We work out a game-plan for each one and size up the floor, the audience, the music."

"At the UK this week, the room will be bright, with a sports hall effect. There are no stalls, but tiered seating facing the stage, so we have to re-choreograph what we do. For us, it is the first competition of the year, so we have to start with a bang."

The Hiltons, who have just recovered from flu and are spending six hours in the studio training and having lessons each day, did not compete in the Star Ball earlier this year, which was won by Baricchi and Barry, but they intend to go on to dance in Japan next month, to do the European and Open British competitions in May, the International in October, the US Open in September and the world championships at Blackpool in November.

"I am always looking over my shoulder and Karen is too, but we mustn't let that outweigh the fact that we have to improve all the time. We have so much to improve on that we are also competing against ourselves," Marcus Hilton said.

He said dancing was a sport and required extreme fitness and suppleness. "I feel it is an artistic sport. We need to be fit to do what we do, but it is not just about fitness. You have to be artistic in the presentation, timing and musicality. We warm up and warm down a lot, but we are also careful not to build up muscles in the wrong places, or extra pounds of flesh."

## Johnson aims to build on his tour de force

**F**OR the Junior Golf Tour national champion of last year, the competition provided a bonus that he thought was never going to come his way.

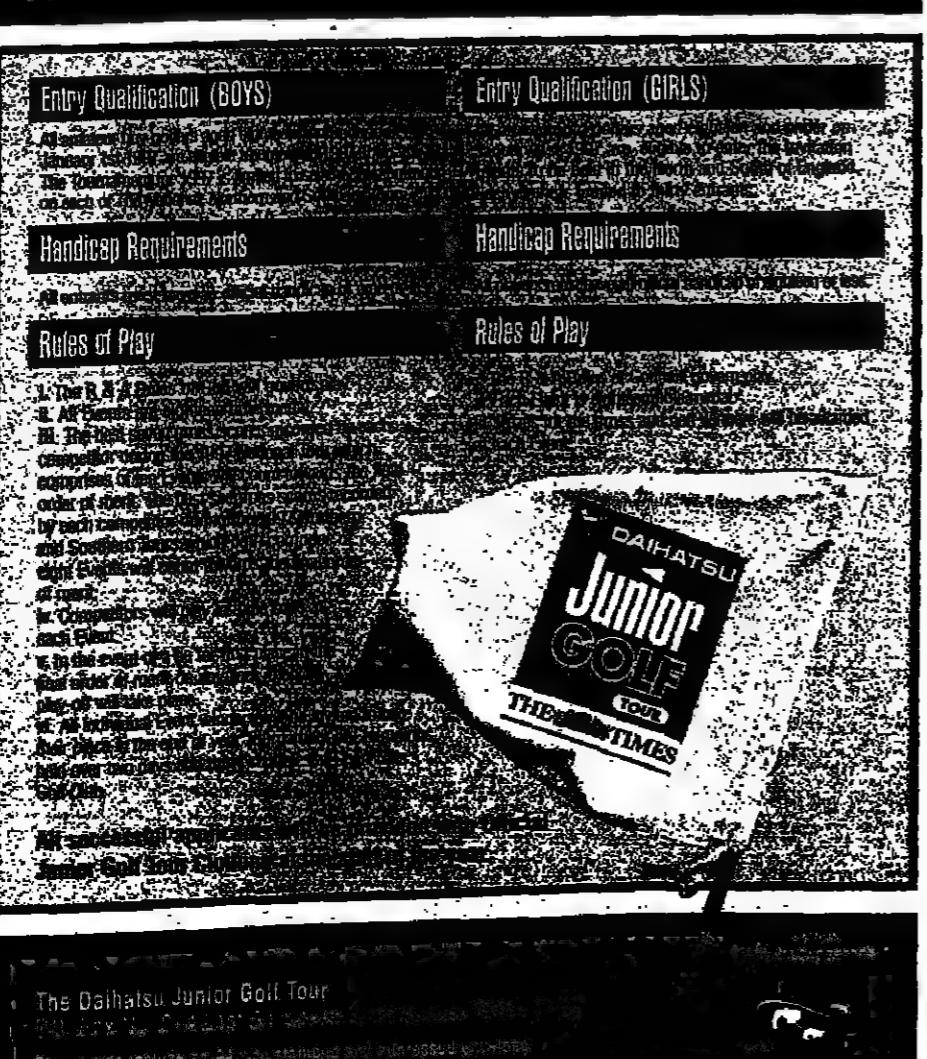
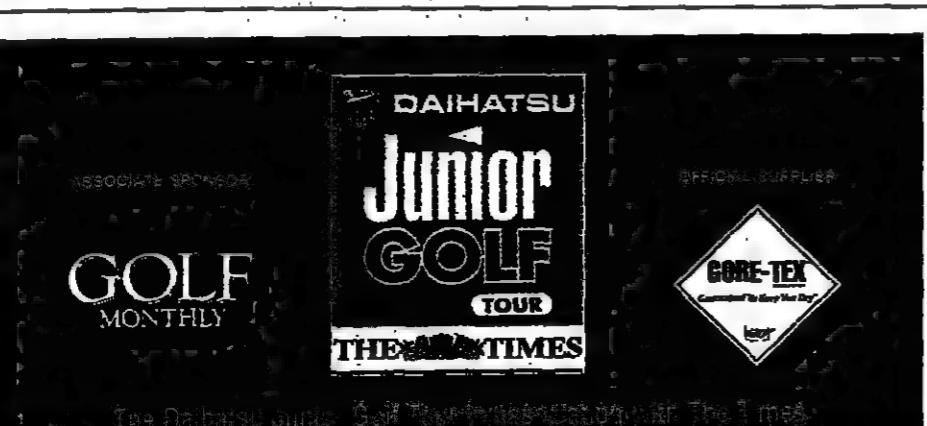
Karl Johnson was already a highly regarded player in his home county of Oxfordshire, but never believed he would be given the chance to test his mettle against leading young golfers in other parts of the country. The Junior Golf Tour provided him with that chance.

"It meant a lot to me," Johnson said at the launch of the Daihatsu-backed tour. "I was able to play on some great golf courses and the chance to play against different players gave me experience I had not expected to get. Then to win the competition was a great bonus — and a nice surprise."

Johnson, three-handicap member of Eridge Heath, will be defending his title this year — at 17, he is eligible for one more season of Junior Tour golf. He has a future in the professional game firmly in his sights, but is determined not to rush things. With nine GCSEs behind him, he is now taking a course



Johnson, the champion, has one more season on the tour





After seeing a women's rugby match Christian Dymond says England v Scotland will be a cracker



Although not the top flight of women's rugby, Blaydon Barracudas (in red) against Wharfedale saw some good tackling and fine handling skills. Points from penalties were conspicuous by their absence. Photographs by Michael Scott

to victory

## A great way to spend a Sunday

If my experience is anything to go by, the women's rugby international between England and Scotland next weekend should be a cracker.

England women's team are the world champions and Scotland lost the fixture only 12-8 last year. The match takes place at Blackheath on Sunday and is preceded by a game between the two national women's A sides.

With England men's poor performance against Argentina still relatively fresh in my memory, I travelled to the outskirts of Newcastle upon Tyne to watch the women of Blaydon Barracudas entertain the might of Wharfedale.

This was by no means the top flight of women's rugby—Blaydon and Wharfedale are in the northern league of the third division—but both sides clearly had ambitions to take the game to each other in an entertaining and open way.

Blaydon Barracudas were also looking to improve their performance after their defeat in Yorkshire a few weeks before, and early evidence suggested enough bite to rattle the visitors. Scrummaging looked pretty solid, there was clean ball from the lineout and after five minutes Elizabeth Simpson, their nippy wing, should have gone over for a

try but the final pass was way off target.

Gradually, though, Wharfedale got a grip on the game, their backs attacking with greater bite while their forwards seemed far more mobile around the pitch. By half-time they were leading 10-0. This increased to 20-0 before Blaydon replied with their solitary try. This galvanised them, but only briefly, and, as they ran out of steam, so Wharfedale ran them ragged, the final result being 46-5.

It did emerge later that Blaydon had been decimated by sickness and had taken the field with two players who had never before experienced a full game.

Five of the eight Wharfedale tries were scored by one of the centre, which was indicative both of the way the match was played and of the way that women generally approach the game. Points from penalties were conspicuous by their absence.

The match certainly impressed Tom Sarginson, 17, one of about 30 spectators hugging the touchline. A rugby player who had never watched a women's game, he said: "It was extremely entertaining, much better than I thought it was going to be. A lot of the tackling was excellent and there were some good moves and great handling skills."

The 30 players on the pitch at Blaydon were some of the 12,000 to 15,000 women who now play rugby in the British Isles. In the past few years the game has grown from 12 teams in 1983 to about 270 clubs, some with two or three sides. Rules are the same as for men.

Rugby generally has a higher profile and the growth in the women's game owes a lot to that. There is also the fact that England women won the World Cup in 1994, as I was told by Rosie Golby, the president of the Rugby Foot-



ball Union for Women, the governing body for the game in England.

A player for 13 years, she turns out as scrum half or centre for Old Leamingtonians in Leamington Spa. "I play because it's a team sport and a contact sport and because I enjoy it," she said. "I can't kick, so, when I do, everyone around me cheers."

The side trains twice a week. Blaydon Barracudas, formerly known as Northern Ladies, also trains twice a week. Tuesday night is for scrummaging, passing and practising set-piece moves. Wednesday evening is primarily for fitness.

Their 25-women squad ranges in age from a 17-year-old who is still at school to a 32-year-old mother of two. The captain and No 8 is Helen Greenwell, 28, one of three policewomen in the side. Many of the others are students. It is Greenwell's second season of rugby, although she had previously been a rower for ten years.

"I've always enjoyed watching the game, but a friend who started playing inspired me to take it up," she said. "Rugby's a good team sport and I think you can enjoy it at whatever level of fitness you are. It also makes for an enjoyable Sunday afternoon." Women's rugby is almost always played on a Sunday, otherwise there might be a clash of pitch and changing facilities with the men.

Three quarters of an hour before the kick-off against

Wharfedale, Blaydon Barracudas were out on the field going through leg and arm exercises with Andy Ellis, their physiotherapist; 20 minutes later, having been split up into backs and forwards, they rehearsed moves with Tom Gilmour and Rob Thomson, their coaches.

"Some of the squad are very fit," Ellis said. "Others have come to the game with a basic level of fitness but with a good degree of strength and determination which we hope to build on. Fitness sometimes takes second place to the learning of the game because rugby is new to them."

THE women who play rugby at Blaydon pay a £20 subscription for the season and a £1.50 match fee. The social side is strong with evenings out and dances at the extremely impressive new £1.1 million clubhouse.

In wider terms women's rugby is organised in national leagues: first and second divisions (Saracens, Richmond, Wasps and Leids being four of the strongest sides), a third division with four regional leagues (North, Midlands, South East and South West).

### HOW TO JOIN IN

and fourth and fifth divisions with eight regional leagues apiece.

There is a sixth division which has leagues for new clubs and there are also knock-out cup competitions.

A national development officer, Nicola Ponsford, was appointed last September. This is apparently women's rugby's first salaried post.

Last season saw the first home nations' championship involving teams from

England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. In March, after the 1997 championship, England will participate in the first women's seven-a-side tournament in Hong Kong.

For more information on women's rugby contact 01635 278777.

For more information on Blaydon Barracudas contact 0191-371 9901.

Blackheath on Sunday 26: England A v Scotland A: kick-off, noon; England v Scotland: kick-off 2pm. Tickets: £5.

## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

When the defence are attempting a trump promotion, it is sometimes necessary for them to cash their side winners first. This example arose in the match between Turkey and Belgium, in the Women's Olympiad in October.

Dealer South Game all IMPs

♦ A83	♦ K83	♦ K10543	♦ K632
♦ A93	♦ A93	♦ K10542	♦ K632
♦ A83	♦ A93	♦ K10542	♦ K632
♦ A83	♦ A93	♦ K10542	♦ K632
♦ A83	♦ A93	♦ K10542	♦ K632

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: ten of clubs

At both tables South attempted Four Spades against the lead of the ten of clubs. Each East played low, and declarer won the queen, but there the play diverged. The Belgian played a heart. West took her ace, and continued clubs, and now a third round of clubs promoted a second trump trick for West. Note incidentally that if South ruffs the third club with an honour, West must discard. If she over-ruffs, she no longer makes a second trump.

The Turkish declarer played the king of spades at trick two; the Belgian West took the ace and played a second club. In practice East overtook and continued with a low club; on which declarer discarded a losing heart; she made the contract when she guessed the contract when she had the queen of diamonds.

If East plays the ace of clubs on the third round of clubs, South can ruff high. Then she draws one more trump, and again makes the contract if she finds the queen of diamonds.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

## KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

### Adams ahead

Grandmaster Michael Adams, the Great Britain No 2, is engaged in match against the top Chilean grandmaster Ivan Morovic in Santiago, Chile. After his relative setback at Hastings, Adams will be anxious to rehabilitate himself. Indeed, he got off to a good start by winning the first game.

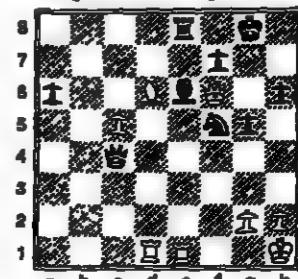
In a fashionable variation of the Sicilian Defence, Adams entered a complex middle-game and sacrificed a pawn in order to lay waste Black's camp through the firepower of the two white bishops. In the final position Black is materially down with his king hopelessly vulnerable to the combined attack of the white queen and bishop.

White: Michael Adams Black: Ivan Morovic Santiago, January 1997

### Sicilian Defence

1 e4	15 c6	g6
2 Nf3	16 c4	Nf7
3 d4	17 Qb7	Nf5
4 Nc3	18 Qb6	Qg5
5 Nf3	19 Qd2	Rf2
6 d5	20 Qd3	Qh4
7 Nf3	21 Qd2	Rd2
8 e5	22 Qd3	Rd4
9 Bc3	23 Qd2	Qd4
10 0-0	24 Bc3	Rd6
11 Kf1	25 Nf3	Rd5
12 Bf4	26 Bd7	Rd4
13 Qd2	27 Rf8	Rd3
14 Rf1	28 Rf8	Rd2
15 a5	29 Rf1	h5
16 Bf1	30 Qd3	Rd1
17 g5	31 Qd2	Qd5
18 Nxe5	32 Nf3	Nf7
19 Qd2	33 Qd3	Nf5
20 Qd3	34 Qd2	Nf3
21 Sxe5	35 Qd3	Nf1
22 Bc3		
23 Ne4		
24 Rg1		
25 Nf3		
26 Bf6		
27 Qd2		
28 Rg1		
29 Qd3		
30 Qd2		
31 Qd3		
32 Qd2		
33 Qd3		
34 Qd2		
35 Qd3		

Diagram of final position



### Withdrawal symptoms

The Dutch tournament at Wijk aan Zee has been plagued by a series of withdrawals by its star players. First Vassily Ivanchuk withdrew to be replaced by Alex Yermolinsky. Now, Gata Kamsky, the world No 7, has also dropped out with his place being taken by the Spanish grandmaster Miguel Illescas. Nigel Short remains Britain's chance for a first prize.

### Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276) at £6.99 plus postage and packing.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

### WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

**HARUSPEX**  
a. A lorgnette  
b. The flycatcher  
c. A fortune teller

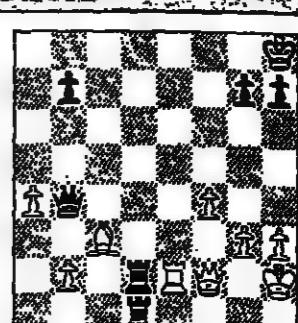
**KINCOB**  
a. Rich embroidery  
b. Corn on the cob  
c. Former pupil of King's

Answers on page 44

### WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Schneider — Oli, Podolsk 1993. Black appears to have a few difficulties as his queen and rook are attacked and his back rank is weak. What is his strongest continuation?



Solution on page 44



Clean ball: both sides clearly had ambitions to take the game to each other in an entertaining and an open way





## RESULTS AND STATISTICS

## TODAY

Interims: Abtrust Scotland Investment, Budgens, Heritage Bathrooms, Majestic Wines, M&S Group, Finalis, none scheduled. Economic statistics: UK vehicle output (December), UK construction trends survey, Bank of France money market tender, Bank of France discount T-bill auction, EU agriculture ministers council (until tomorrow).

## TOMORROW

Interims: Barbour Index, China Investment Trust, Consolidated Murdoch, Danone Holdings, Finch Group, Randolstein Estates, Gold Mining, Somerfield, Finalis, Standard International, Economic statistics: UK new construction orders (November), UK provisional M4, December, UK building cost, Association end-December monthly statement, UK building societies monthly figures (December), UK CBI quarterly industrial trends survey, Bank of England interest rate, non-resident data for January 28-30, BTM/Schroder weekly US chain store sales report, Johnson Redbook weekly US chain store sales report, Sainsbury's annual report, US Fed Chairman's speech on economy to Senate budget committee, US Treasury auction of short-term T-bills, Treasury announces size of short-term T-bills and inflation-indexed ten-year notes.

## WEDNESDAY

Interims: Membro Abbey, Finlays, Smiths Group, Watson & Phillips, Economic statistics: UK retail sales (December), French industrial production (November), Bundesbank awards report, Trading statement: TeleWest Communications.

## THURSDAY

Interims: Portland Group, William Ramsay, Finalis: none scheduled, Economic statistics: UK British Chamber of Commerce economic survey (Q4), Japan trade surplus (December), French household consumption (December), Bundesbank central council policy meeting, Bank of France money market tender.

## FRIDAY

Interims: Metastad Insurance, WF Electrical, Finalis: Albion, Economic statistics: none scheduled, Trading statement: J Sainsbury.

## SUNDAY TIPS

Independent: On Sunday: Buy Oxford Medical, Cirque, Silvermines, Presbac; Hold Rentokil Initial; Sell Stanford Rook, London Observer; Buy Tesco, Sainsbury, Sunday Telegraph; Buy Guinness, Stamford Rook, Jarvis, Goldsmiths, First Leisure; Sell Tottenham Hotspur. Sunday Times: Buy Medeva; Sell Dixons, Kewill Systems, Mail on Sunday; Buy Cruden Bay, Reed Int'l, Goodwin.

## COMPANIES

## Tesco stays ahead in store wars



David Sainsbury, chairman of the food retailer, heading for a second profits setback

although it is doubtful whether the retailer has been able to close the gap.

In the event, the group is expected to suffer its second consecutive profits setback in the current year, with brokers pencilling in profits of around

£700 million, against £764 million last time.

SOMERFIELD: Tomorrow's half-year figures from Somerfield will be the first since the company launched itself on the stock market back in July. NatWest Securities, the broker, is forecasting maiden pre-tax profits of £54.5 million with a net dividend of 3.3p. NatWest is confident that the group's policy of closing the profitability gap between its main competitors is on track.

## Pointers to the Chancellor's actions over interest rates

There are a number of key economic figures that will help the financial markets to form a view on whether the Chancellor was right to leave interest rates unchanged last week and whether he will now get away with stable rates right up until the election, as many City economists have concluded.

The first important clutch of releases comes tomorrow, with December figures for M4 money supply as well as the latest lending figures from banks and building

societies. M4 is expected to have risen 0.7 per cent in the month, according to a consensus of market expectations compiled by MMS International.

That would leave annual growth in M4 unchanged at 10.8 per cent. The M4 lending component of the money supply is forecast to show a slight deceleration from November's figure. Overall, these statistics are predicted to show that growth in credit and broad money remains robust.

Also released on Tuesday is the latest industrial trends survey from the Confederation of British Industry, which will be of particular interest after the shock fall in manufacturing activity reported recently.

This is followed on Wednesday by December figures for retail sales, which will give the official version of the key Christmas shopping season. The consensus

of market forecasts is for a modest rise of 0.3 per cent in retail sales volumes, compared with November's increase of 0.7 per cent.

The caution of these forecasts comes after rather disappointing evidence on December sales from the CBI and the Retail Sales Consortium.

Outside Britain, the focus will turn to Germany, where the Bundesbank is holding its December annual meeting, and renewed speculation about a possible drop in German interest rates in the new year.

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£250,000-£499,999	6.375% gross	5.10% net	£5,000-£24,999	5.875% gross	4.70% net

GROSS RATE is the contractual rate of interest payable net of the deduction of income tax at the lower rate. NET RATE is the rate which would be payable after allowing for the deduction of income tax at the lower rate. The Tax Deduction Scheme for Interest (TDS) after very low, therefore the net rate is given at 6.25% only. Tax will only be deducted in those cases where the Bond is obliged to do so. A quarterly interest payment option is also available to Bonds Business Account holders only. Availability is limited. Further details available on request.

# Bazaar way to do business fulfils Eastern promise

The rise of the new retail emperors is charted by Carl Mortished

**O**n the edge of the Taklimakan desert in the Chinese province of Sinkiang there is a town called Kashgar. A dusty, unattractive place, cursed with some vile Chinese concrete bunker buildings, Kashgar was once important. For thousands of years it was an oasis and trading post; caravans from the West brought gold, wool, precious stones and glass. These were exchanged for goods arriving from the East: fur, lacquer, ceramics, weapons and, of course, silk.

Like every great bazaar or shopping centre, the success of Kashgar was its location, linking Samarkand and routes to Europe with China to the east and India to the south. In the jargon of today's retailers, Kashgar had a high footfall and was on a caravan route, or in today's language, a motorway.

In Britain, there is disagreement about whether we are in a retail boom. Shopkeepers report mixed results. But if there is still gloom among the traders of cloth and leather, the owners of the bazaars have become the new retailing emperors. Shopping centres, the concrete and glass blocks that house the silk and leather merchants are fetching enormous prices and their owners are becoming very rich. The shares of shopping centre owners have soared — in the space of a year, Capital Shopping Centres, which owns Lakeside in Essex and the Metro Centre in Gateshead, has risen from 216p to 380p. Chelfield, which owns the Merry Hill centre in Dudley, is up more than 80 per cent.

Owners of retail bazaars are now worth much more than the net value of the underlying buildings. Every sale of a shopping centre brings a new benchmark in valuation. This month, Marks & Spencer put a fitter-box under the market, buying the Gyle centre in Edinburgh for £122 million. M&S had a trump card, a pre-emption right on the centre and whisked the property from under the noses of Universities Superannuation Fund. The bids reflected rents of £65 per sq ft for Zone A, the first 30 feet of a retail unit. But, according to Peter Smolka, investment partner at Hillier Parker, which sold the centre for Edinburgh City Council,



The Lakeside centre in Essex has helped to boost the share price of its owners



Success at the Metro Centre reflects the popularity of the new shopping outlets

the bidders were factoring in substantial rental growth. "My own opinion is that they must have been working on the basis of a £130 Zone A."

Why should rents rise so much when retailers are still fighting for every customer? To answer the question, it is worth thinking again about bazaars. In the 1970s and

1980s, middle-class England fled from cities to suburbs and retailers followed them. Shoppers liked the huge malls on motorways and retailers liked the captive audiences. So busy were the shops that property developers confidently booked retailers on turnover rents, linking the cost of the floorspace to the money flowing into the till. While the bazaars on the motorways flourished, the town centres died for want of custom. With such a profusion of goods available in one place, shoppers saw no reason to trapse down the high street. Decay set in and the townsfolk demanded an end to the construction of more bazaars. The

## Pensioners bonds lead Savings rush

BY ANNE ASHWORTH, PERSONAL FINANCE EDITOR

RETAILERS may have had a quieter Christmas than they expected, but the month of December saw unusually high demand for National Savings accounts and bonds.

Best sellers were pensioners' bonds, in which £123 million was invested during the month, and Premium Bonds, which attracted £98 million.

Total sales of all National Savings products were £779 million.

After repayments of £710 million and accrued interest of £124 million, the net contribution to Government funding was £193 million.

National Savings said that it was on target to raise £4.5 billion, the amount it is required to contribute to Government funding in the 1996/97 financial year.

This sum was increased from £3 billion in the last Budget.

## Change to Interest Rates.

With effect from start of business on 20th January 1997 the interest rate set out below becomes applicable to all Practice Call Accounts whatever the balance.

### Practice Call Account

#### Rate per Annum

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Government responded and a new planning guideline, PP6, virtually rules out more shopping centres on Britain's caravan routes.

For those already being built, such as Trafford Park, near Manchester, or the 16 million sq ft Bluewater Park in Kent, the prohibition is good news. Less competition means a shortage of centres for retailers seeking space, and investors seeking a home for their money. Even while shopkeepers struggle, rents in good centres rise. As in all bazaars, successful traders attract imitators and the competition for good locations is intense. The Gyle centre has 100 retailers knocking at its door.

Institutions are again interested in property after several years of suspicion bred of the last property crash. Funds, flush with cash, can contemplate spending more than £100 million on a single asset, shrugging off any thought of risk with the knowledge that the income from a single shopping centre really comprises more than 100 incomes from separate traders.

For the merchants sipping tea in their offices in the soul-property becoming an issue. Soaring rents pose a threat to profit margins and could even raise concerns about cashflow should trading turn down as it did in the last recession. The richest of them have responded by buying up their premises where they can. Hence the purchase of the Gyle, where M&S has bought the 300,000 sq ft centre to secure its position. Other retailers are buying property, including Carpetright and Burton Group, which last year purchased a flagship store at Oxford Circus in London.

In Southampton, the bidding is in progress for a huge centre shopping centre project owned by Imry, the company that was shuffled into the Barclays Bank vaults in the last property crash. Barclays is now selling the company and at least three companies, CSC, Chelfield and British Land are eyeing up the Southampton asset.

Could shopping centres last as long as the markets in Kashgar or the covered bazaar in Istanbul? Many were built in the 1980s and over the next few years will begin to look tired.

Lacking the pedigrees of 2,000 years of trading, Britain's bazaars need glitz and rents to keep the loyalty of shoppers and those retailers who choose to buy their roof may find the investment goes far beyond the initial hefty outlay. However, there is no shortage of adventurers — the silk route traders risked more than their money bringing cloth to the market. If the location is right, some trader will always set up his stall.

Frank le Duc on the regional press

## The press barons who are proud to be provincial

Who could possibly want to buy a dying business — one that some people doubt will survive for much longer than a decade? A business such as local newspapers.

The sector is breathing its last, according to some doubters, and is about to be supplanted by new media gods, such as the Internet, electronic publishing and the proliferation of local radio and TV stations.

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media analyst at Panmure Gordon, said the sector reached a watershed when Northcliffe bought the *Nottingham Evening Post* for £93 million two years ago. The Department of Trade and Industry overruled the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's objections.

A wave of buying and selling followed. The sector has seen its biggest change since the advent of free newspapers taken on an exhibitions basis, supporting and supported by specialist magazines; and it publishes on the Internet.

Mr de Larrinaga said publishers had suffered from duplicated costs in an industry that was too fragmented. The Nottingham deal signalled the new breed.

Hours after Westminster Press was sold, Frank Barlow, then managing director of Pearson, the vendor, called WP a "domestic business in long-term decline".

This was not a distress sale. WP made a £25 million operating profit from sales of £143 million in the previous year, and, according to Mr Barlow, had "probably the highest trading margins in the industry".

Was he right to sell? If the judgment of the media sector's high priests is any guide, it would seem so. The trend is away from old-fashioned local papers and towards specialist magazines, TV, radio and new media. The Internet is fashionable, if not yet a profitable method of publishing.

Pearson sold WP within months of Emap's exit from the sector, hot on the heels of disposals by Reed and The Thomson Corporation. The long-term commitment of United News & Media, another leading regional publisher, is doubted by some observers. Of the top five regional publishers two years ago, only Northcliffe, part of Daily Mail and General Trust, seems truly committed to remaining a significant force in the sector.

Alec Davidson, Northcliffe's managing director, said: "We happen to believe there is a long-term business called national and regional newspapers — thank God!"

"It may be a domestic business in a mature phase, but what we are seeking to do is to use that as a strength, both for its own long-term position and to develop new businesses out of it."

The new giants, such as Newsquest, Trinity and Johnston Press, are dedicated provincial publishers.

Anthony de Larrinaga, chief executive of

nailed the chance to build larger groups with geographic coherence: this means rationalisation, redundancies and cutting costs. But it also means resources were freed, leading to investment in titles, staff and technology, and enhanced earnings and better margins.

If the MMC feared the prospect of less competition, a number of proprietors could point to the explosion of local TV and radio channels as well as the threat posed by new media. Chris Oakley, chief executive of

Midland Independent Newspapers, is typical of the new breed of regional publishers. His core business consists of *The Birmingham Post* and *Evening Mail*, and the *Covering Evening Telegraph*.

In the past few years it has launched Birmingham Live, a joint venture cable TV channel; it has started supplying news to radio stations taken on an exhibitions basis, supporting and supported by specialist magazines; and it publishes on the Internet.

He said: "We are an information business. It would be very hard for someone to come in here and gather as much information as we can, both in editorial and advertising terms. They might as well come to us. We're interested in content, not in owning the tubes down which the information is squeezed."

Midland has attracted the attention of Hollinger, owner of the *Daily Telegraph*. A deal could form the tail end of the "mad scramble" that Mr de Larrinaga believes has been prompted in part by the imminent general election.

"The first stage is complete," he said. "The second stage will see initial acquisitions and title swaps."

The buying and selling continues — if not on the same scale as the WP deal. Venture capitalists, who look for good growth and strong cashflow, have kept faith with the sector.

After TV, the regional press still attracts more advertising spending than any other medium — including national newspapers.

The long-term decline that Mr Barlow described casts quite a shadow. Poor circulation is the most worrying symptom, indicative of the newspaper equivalent of scurvy — undernourished titles starved of investment. Although it accounts for a shrinking proportion of total revenues, it is telling if advertisers know how many readers are prepared to buy a paper.

One of the first statements by Jim Brown, Newsquest's chief executive, after buying WP's titles was that they would be shown some tender loving care. He told the MMC that his acquisition needed investment and would receive it.

Perhaps the bankers and backers have more faith in the new generation of owner-managers and are looking to them to resurrect the sector and lead a renaissance.

## INTERVIEWS LIMITED

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Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 1996

	*At 31 Dec 1996	*At 31 Dec 1995	*At 30 June 1996
Investments	168 113	167 504	167 720
Properties and ventures	135	135	135
Net current assets/(liabilities)	2 518	11 217	12 072
Current assets	8 374	3 442	8 818
Cash	3 862	3 442	5 056
Other	1 512	3 442	3 782
Less current liabilities	5 850	11 600	11 700
Bank loan	5 850	5 850	5 850
Other	10 666	10 666	10 666
Share capital	88 425	88 425	88 425
Reserves	82 311	23 055	20 462
	101 700	101 402	104 902
Investments	375 511	391 808	363 954
Listed	108 673	325 610	457 501
Market value	166 837	166 268	166 453
Excess over book value	5 208	5 208	15 303
Unlisted	2 276	1 271	1 271
Book value	1 271	1 271	1 271
Shares in issue unchanged at 30/6/95/2011	1 991	1 087	2 066
Net assets (as valued) per share - cents	1 991	1 087	2 066

\*Unaudited

NOTES:

1. Final Dividend. Dividend No. 91 of 35 cents per ordinary share, in respect of the year ended 30 June 1996, absorbing R10 722 000, was declared on 30 July 1996 and paid on 11 September 1996.
2. Prospects. Good growth in earnings was achieved in the period under review largely as a result of improved dividends from the Group's gold mining investments and a surplus on the realisation of investments. If the gold price, however, remains at its present depressed level, earnings in the second half of the current financial year are expected to be lower.

### DECLARATION OF INTERIM DIVIDEND

Dividend No. 92 of 17 cents per share has been declared in South African currency, payable to members registered at the close of business on 7 February 1997.

# Thameslink poised to enter the private sector network

By RICHARD FOSTER

THAMESLINK, the most lucrative of the seven remaining rail franchises, will pass into private hands this week, ending months of market speculation that has pushed the shares of the four bidders to record highs.

GB Railways, which this month doubled its value on its stock market debut, is joined by Virgin, Cowie Group and Go-Ahead in the race for London's main rail link.

Virgin, which two weeks ago took over the CrossCountry Line, has linked with ViaGTR, the French transport company, for the bid.

Cowie, the transport group, has teamed up with Thameslink's existing management to form Greater London Railways, a new company in which Cowie has a 75 per cent stake. Cowie runs many London bus routes and plans to connect these services with Thameslink. It said: "We think that with two management, one successful with trains and one successful with buses, we can improve services dramatically."



All change: new operators for the Thameslink service will be chosen this week

Go-Ahead runs an Oxford bus service as well as jointly operating the city's rail link with London.

While Thameslink is seen as the jewel of the remaining franchises, it is far from the

largest. InterCity South West took in £219 million in the year to March 31, against Thameslink's £76 million. However, the line has shown the fastest profit growth of any of the rail franchises, with a rise of 18 per

cent last year. Its service from Bedford to Brighton takes in the City of London and Gatwick airport. Until the franchise is awarded, the four bidding companies are keeping secret their plans for

running the line. But for the successful company, the opportunities that the franchise offers are tremendous, both for transportation and for the company's market value.

It is especially attractive because of a wide-ranging programme of improvements commissioned by the Government last February. New track is to be laid connecting 150 stations in the South East, linking Thameslink with the East Coast mainline, and reducing journey times significantly. A new platform will be built at London Bridge station and a low-level station at St Pancras.

However, its service is on course to be disrupted by the construction of a fast rail link for the Channel tunnel. Oprat said that it will cover any costs by the disruption.

After the improvements, the greatest number of trains across London on the service will increase from six to 24 an hour in each direction. The plans were intended to relieve pressure on London's crowded Underground, leaving the line's new operators ideally placed to capture the sector.

New moves due in fight for Conrail

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE battle for one of America's biggest railroad companies is set to intensify this week after the rejection by shareholders in Conrail of a \$9.3 billion merger with CSX.

Norfolk Southern Corp, which has made a rival \$10.3 billion bid, will demand talks with Conrail to try to end a stalemate triggered by its shareholders' vote last Friday.

Conrail still insists its future lies in a merger with CSX and is likely to ask shareholders to vote again. David LeVan, Conrail chairman, said: "We have to get out and sell the value of this transaction."

At least 53 per cent of outstanding Conrail shares were voted against exempting Conrail from a Pennsylvania law that would require CSX to pay all cash for it. A waiver would have let CSX complete its \$10.3-a-share cash tender offer to lift its Conrail stake to 40 per cent, from 19.9 per cent, giving it effective control of Conrail. CSX aimed to offer stock for the rest of Conrail, taking the deal's total value to \$104 a share.

A Conrail/CSX agreement prohibits either side, should their pact fail, from merging with a third party until 1999. LOADES, the producer of car prototypes, is to become the first company to leave the Alternative Investment Market.

## Loades opts to leave official list for AIM

LOADES, the producer of car prototypes, is to become the first company to leave the Alternative Investment Market.

Under the new AIM rules, the company has given the Stock Exchange one month's notice of its plans to switch.

But it has given no indication of the logic it sees behind the move.

Loades plans to give up its full listing, which it has had for 30 years, early next month. It is 87 per cent owned by the Loades family, chaired by Edward Loades and co-owned by Imperial Pensions.

After taking record orders from car manufacturers designing new models for the millennium, the company's shares have risen to a record high of 490p, valuing it at £9.8 million.

Trading was strong again on AIM last week, with the FT-SE AIM index gaining 16.8 points to close the week at 1,085.40 — its highest since the market's summer lull.

Viewmills was the highest climber last week, gaining 66p to close at 222.5p. The company, which sells keypads that

provide hotel guests with access to a range of data, returned stronger than expected results on Wednesday. It has also secured a second contract to supply Internet services to the Hotel InterContinental in London.

Shares of La Senza, which owns a chain of lingerie shops across England, had their biggest dive since joining AIM last May. It said its new lingerie shops were taking longer than expected to open, which would force it to return a loss of £1.6 million against the break-even first predicted.

The shares lost 25.5p over the week, to close at a new low of 102.5p.

Shares of Multimedia, the CD-Rom supplier, halved from 35p to 18.5p after it gave a warning that competition from America was posing a long-term problem.

There were no new issues this week. Prospective new issues — some of which have been circling the market since October — have still given no indication when they intend to arrive.

FRASER NELSON

INTERCITY RAIL SERVICES LTD																	
1996	High	Low	Mid cap	Price	Wkly	YTD	%	P/E	1996	High	Low	Mid cap	Price	Wkly	YTD	%	P/E
150 <sup>1</sup>	125 <sup>1</sup>	125 <sup>1</sup>	125 <sup>1</sup>	125 <sup>1</sup>	-14	4.1	11.3		250 <sup>1</sup>	250 <sup>1</sup>	250 <sup>1</sup>	136.00	136.00	-122 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	16.9	2.25
152 <sup>1</sup>	128 <sup>1</sup>	125 <sup>1</sup>	125 <sup>1</sup>	125 <sup>1</sup>	+3	4.1	11.3		251 <sup>1</sup>	251 <sup>1</sup>	251 <sup>1</sup>	136.00	136.00	-122 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	16.9	2.25
238 <sup>1</sup>	67 <sup>1</sup>	63 <sup>1</sup>	63 <sup>1</sup>	63 <sup>1</sup>	+5	1.0	5.0		252 <sup>1</sup>	252 <sup>1</sup>	252 <sup>1</sup>	136.00	136.00	-122 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	16.9	2.25
307 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	+1	1.0	5.0		253 <sup>1</sup>	253 <sup>1</sup>	253 <sup>1</sup>	136.00	136.00	-122 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	16.9	2.25
107 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	+1	1.0	5.0		254 <sup>1</sup>	254 <sup>1</sup>	254 <sup>1</sup>	136.00	136.00	-122 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	16.9	2.25
141 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	+1	1.0	5.0		255 <sup>1</sup>	255 <sup>1</sup>	255 <sup>1</sup>	136.00	136.00	-122 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	16.9	2.25
107 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	+1	1.0	5.0		256 <sup>1</sup>	256 <sup>1</sup>	256 <sup>1</sup>	136.00	136.00	-122 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	16.9	2.25
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107 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	+1	1.0	5.0		258 <sup>1</sup>	258 <sup>1</sup>	258 <sup>1</sup>	136.00	136.00	-122 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	16.9	2.25
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107 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	+1	1.0	5.0		260 <sup>1</sup>	260 <sup>1</sup>	260 <sup>1</sup>	136.00	136.00	-122 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	16.9	2.25
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107 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	+1	1.0	5.0		264 <sup>1</sup>	264 <sup>1</sup>	264 <sup>1</sup>	136.00	136.00	-122 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	16.9	2.25
141 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	+1	1.0	5.0		265 <sup>1</sup>	265 <sup>1</sup>	265 <sup>1</sup>	136.00	136.00	-122 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	16.9	2.25
107 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	+1	1.0	5.0		266 <sup>1</sup>	266 <sup>1</sup>	266 <sup>1</sup>	136.00	136.00	-122 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	16.9	2.25
141 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	+1	1.0	5.0		267 <sup>1</sup>	267 <sup>1</sup>	267 <sup>1</sup>	136.00	136.00	-122 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	16.9	2.25
107 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	+1	1.0	5.0		268 <sup>1</sup>	268 <sup>1</sup>	268 <sup>1</sup>	136.00	136.00	-122 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	16.9	2.25
141 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	+1	1.0	5.0		269 <sup>1</sup>	269 <sup>1</sup>	269 <sup>1</sup>	136.00	136.00	-122 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	16.9	2.25
107 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	+1	1.0	5.0		270 <sup>1</sup>	270 <sup>1</sup>	270 <sup>1</sup>	136.00	136.00	-122 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	16.9	2.25
141 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	+1	1.0	5.0		271 <sup>1</sup>	271 <sup>1</sup>	271 <sup>1</sup>	136.00	136.00	-122 <sup>1</sup>	2.0	16.9	2.25
107 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>1</sup>	+1	1.0	5.0		272 <sup>1</sup>	272 <sup>1</sup>							

## Last-ditch defence at Wm Cook

William Cook, the castings company, yesterday raised its profits forecast in a last-ditch effort to stave off a £60 million takeover bid from Triplex Lloyd.

The company predicted that profits for the year to the end of March would be at least £11 million, a rise of 30 per cent. The company also forecast a 44 per cent rise in the total dividend to £3p. Cook said that the forecast had improved because of a big jump in production and orders in November and December.

Andrew Cook, chairman, added that the company should continue to advance and repeated his call for Triplex to issue a trading forecast of its own.

Triplex has until this Saturday to raise its offer, currently worth about 305p a share. Analysts predict that Triplex will raise its offer to between 340p and 400p a share.

William Cook shares closed up 4p at 370p on Friday, valuing the company at £69 million, while Triplex shares closed at 294p. The final closing date for acceptance of the offer is February 8.

## Negative equity fall

The house price recovery continues to rescue more households from negative equity, according to the Woolwich Building Society. Those owing more on their mortgages than the value of their homes dropped by 75,000 in 1996 to 405,000, the lowest level since the first half of 1990.

The largest falls were in Greater London and the South East, with declines of 135,000 and 190,000 respectively.

# BP signs \$1bn gas deal with Germans

BY MARTIN BARROW

BP WILL today announce that it has signed a \$1 billion agreement to supply North Sea gas to Ruhrgas of Germany. The deal will take gas from the North Sea to continental Europe via the \$450 million interconnector pipeline, now under construction, from the Norfolk coast to Zeebrugge in Belgium.

Rodney Chase, chief executive of BP Exploration, said: "This is a landmark gas supply deal for BP as it represents our first sale into continental Europe and our first use of the capacity we own in the interconnector pipeline. It underscores the substantial and growing importance of BP's exploration and production portfolio in gas."

The company also announced that since the restructuring of its marketing activities in the UK last August its share of the UK commercial and industrial market has more than doubled to 15 per cent and its combined sales of

Mr Chase said: "BP has played a major role in creating the link between the gas networks of the UK and continental Europe, and this deal is the confirmation of the opportunities that now exist for UK gas trading on a Europe-wide basis.

In the longer term such a link will enhance the security of gas supplies and maintain the growing importance of gas as a fuel source."

BP's gas reserves are among the largest in the North Sea. BP Gas, a wholly owned subsidiary, annually supplies approximately 10 billion cubic metres of gas to the UK industrial, commercial, power and spot markets, and wholesale to British Gas.

Ruhrgas is one of the largest gas importers in the world. Its primary activity is associated with gas purchasing, transmission, storage and sales, with an annual gas endowment amounting to around 60 billion cubic metres.

Chase landmark deal



Robert Greig, Callaway UK sales marketing manager, with some of the fake golf heads

## Cadbury sale to Coke likely to satisfy EU

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE EUROPEAN Commission is expected this week to clear Cadbury's £700 million sale of its stake in a UK bottling venture to Coca-Cola Enterprises, with no strings attached.

The Commission had been examining the competition implications of Cadbury's sale of its 51 per cent stake in Coca-Cola Schweppes Beverages

(CCSB) but is believed to have concluded that the deal will make no fundamental difference to the bottling market. Coca-Cola company is also selling its 49 per cent stake in the venture to Coca-Cola Enterprises. Richard Branson, of Virgin, has announced his intention to pursue a separate complaint about CCSB's discounting policies.

## Callaway drive to halt fake golf clubs

BY ADAM FRESCO

IT IS a picture that will break the heart of every golfer in the country — tens of thousands of pounds worth of golf clubs with the famous Callaway design being destroyed.

Callaway believed that the hundreds of drivers and fairway woods were just not up to their usual standard — and found that they were copies, part of an illegal trade that is costing millions of pounds.

A batch of the clubs, weighing eight tonnes, were seized when Callaway Golf won a High Court victory against Rata and Rata. Callaway was awarded £100,000 in costs and £300,000 in damages against Rata, which was selling clubs that had the "specific features" of Callaway's Big Bertha Metal Woods and Irons from stores at business parks.

Callaway extracted the shafts and flattened the club heads before selling them to a reprocessing firm that will melt down the metal. The money will go to a golf charity.

# Irish reserves and election add up to budget bonanza

FROM EILEEN McCABE IN DUBLIN

BULGING government coffers in an election year should ensure that the Republic of Ireland's 1997 budget, due this Wednesday, will live up to its billing as the "giveaway" package of the decade.

Far from dampening expectations last week, Ruairi Quinn, Minister of Finance, had stoked media speculation by saying that hopes of tax cuts was entirely justified. Over the weekend, in the pre-budget White Paper, his department estimated the opening current budget surplus at £1.471 million on the back of a 7 per cent rise in tax revenues to £13.8 billion.

These estimates indicate that 5 per cent real GNP growth is expected this year. These figures follow a record-breaking year for tax revenues last year, which allowed the Government to undershoot its exchequer borrowing requirement target.

Committed to a £1 billion tax cut package over the next three years in the recently completed national pay deal, Partnership 2000, large portions of Mr Quinn's speech wrote themselves. But given that this is the last budget before the three-party coalition Government goes to the polls, Mr Quinn will want to help all sectors. He is likely to

start with the low-middle income earners and offer them a one percentage point cut to the standard income tax rate of 27 per cent — the first reduction since 1992.

It is also widely believed he will reduce employee-related social insurance (PRSI) by one percentage point to 4.5 per cent. Together with increases to personal allowances and a slight widening of tax bands, these measures should put up to £1.400 a year into the pockets of people of this sector. Most commentators believe he will maintain the top rate of income tax at 48 per cent.

The business community should also benefit from changes ranging from two percentage points off the 38 per cent standard rate of corporation tax, to a tweaking of the level at which employers make social insurance contributions.

As Mr Quinn comes from the centre-left Labour Party, and one of his coalition partners is a socialist Democratic Left party, the welfare package will probably be generous. It is believed he has set aside about £115 million for social security increases, including bigger allowances for children. Mr Quinn will also extend the range of back-to-work measures adopted in the 1996 budget.

## BA agrees dispute pact with pilots

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH AIRWAYS has drawn up a formal agreement with its pilots aimed at avoiding the type of dispute that almost led to a strike last year.

The deal, which does not include a "no strike" clause, is centred on ten guidelines that both sides have agreed to follow well before any potential industrial relations problem can develop.

With BA still determined to achieve big cost savings it is inevitable that pilots, who earn a basic salary of up to £78,000 a year, will face big changes in their pay, conditions and working practices.

It was a widespread anger that their views and fears had been ignored by management that led the pilots to ballot overwhelmingly in favour of strike action last year.

Chris Darke, general secretary of Balpa, the pilots' union that represents nearly all the 3,500 flight crew in the airline, said that the deal was a big step forward in industrial relations.

He added: "The aim is to change the culture we have had for a long time because we don't want the business to be run with the threat of a dispute just around the corner."

"We are not seeking to run the airline, but it would be desirable to sit down and discuss things in an open and frank way. Both sides have tended to come to the bargaining table with fixed views of what we want rather than sitting down and examining solutions."

Captain Mike Jeffery, BA's director of flight crew, said that during last year's pay dispute both sides were in their trenches. "We have to move away from a dogmatic approach."

## Company profits back to strength

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

PROFITS earned by UK companies have returned to their highest level since the beginning of the recession in 1991, according to a report published today by CCN Group.

Corporate profitability rose from 11.5 per cent to 12.1 per cent in the third quarter of 1996 as better consumer confidence began to take hold. David Coates, director of CCN Group, said the improvement looked likely to be sustained in 1997 as manufacturing continued to respond to improved consumer confidence.

But he said that weak investment and a lack of liquidity in some sectors, including the chemicals and transport industries, could cause some companies problems if interest rates rise

sharply. Average pre-tax profit margins rose to 7.5 per cent from their highest since 1991.

Best third-quarter corporate performance was in leisure and hotels, where average return on capital employed increased by over a quarter to 11.7 per cent.

Oil, up from 5.9 per cent to 7.7 per cent, and food manufacturing, where returns on capital increased from 12 per cent to 14.5 per cent, were also good performers.

Building and construction performed remained weakest, falling from 1.92 per cent to 1.8 per cent.

Other weak performing sectors included print, paper and packaging (profitability down from 14.6 per cent to 12.9 per cent) and breweries (return on capital 10.9 per cent against 12 per cent).

## Unions see drawbacks of inward investment

BY OLIVER AUGUST

TRADE unionists angered by plant closure threats are turning against inward investment after years of celebrating the creation of thousands of UK jobs by foreign companies.

Multinationals will readily take government sweeteners and exploit the low levels of protection granted to British workers. And those workers may be sacked ahead of their better-protected continental colleagues when costs have to be cut, said union officials.

A KPMG survey published today says that inward investment reached a record high last year. Sales of UK companies to foreign buyers rose from \$36.3 billion to \$38.5 billion. Foreign takeovers of UK companies in 1996 exceeded the total for all other EU countries combined.

Fears over the downside of inward investment have also

reached the TUC. Chris Savage, a trade policy specialist, said: "There is a danger of investment flowing out as well as in. The TUC is, however, in favour of all investments that create new jobs."

Stephen Barrett, the KPMG partner responsible for the survey, said: "Overall the positive aspects outweigh the negative."

Callaway extracted the shafts and flattened the club heads before selling them to a reprocessing firm that will melt down the metal. The money will go to a golf charity.

## Training budgets increase

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

COMPANIES are generally lifting their budgets for training, but the proportion of the wages bill spent on equipping employees with new skills fell last year, says a survey by the Industrial Society.

Cash spent on training in 1996 slipped as a percentage of the wages bill from 3.66 per cent to 2.94 per cent. While part of the decline could be explained by higher wages, the society said it could mean that employers are concentrating training investment on key employees to the detriment of part-timers, freelances, other non-permanent staff and operations that have been outsourced.

However, the society was critical of selective training. Andrew Forrest, human resources director, said: "Employees who feel undervalued as second class citizens will not be as committed to their work or deliver the sort of high performance employers want from them."

Overall training as a share of company turnover rose 12 per cent. But an effort to tackle the costs of training meant that spending per capita fell to £370 from £384. Although training costs are often high, more employers are now grouping together to block-buy training to reduce the expense.

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## SUPPLY OF BEER TO CERTAIN TIED HOUSES OWNED BY SPRING INNS LIMITED

### INVITATION TO TENDER

Tenders are invited for the right to supply beer to 500 licensed premises owned by Spring Inns Limited on behalf of The Innpreneur Beer Supply Company Limited (TIBSCO) or another wholly-owned subsidiary of Foster's Brewing Group Limited of Australia (FBG) nominated by TIBSCO.

TIBSCO has the right to supply (or nominate the supplier of) certain types of beer (tied products) to tenants of the licensed premises. TIBSCO (or the nominee) will agree to purchase beer from the successful tenderer and will appoint the successful tenderer as its agent to supply beer to those tenants.

The tender process has been initiated pursuant to binding undertakings dated 11 August 1995 given to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to Section 75G of the Fair Trading Act 1973, modified on 24 December 1996, in connection with the sale of the Courage beer business to Scottish & Newcastle plc.

Written expressions of interest from potential tenderers are to be sent to Mr Robin Hammond at TIBSCO to arrive no later than 5 pm on 23 January 1997. Interested parties will then be required to enter into a confidentiality undertaking and will then be given the documents on the basis of which tenders are to be submitted.

The timetable for the tender process is as follows:

Expressions of interest 23 January 1997

Confidentiality undertaking received and thereafter tender documents provided 26 January 1997

Tenders submitted 14 February 1997

Notification of successful tenderer 17 February 1997

Execution of Supply Agreement Immediately thereafter

Commencement of Supply 1 March 1997

Tenders will be required to be made for 100% of the tied products for each licensed premises.

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT		
£'000	£'000	£'000
Revenue	7,633	6,828
Surplus on realisation of investments and fixed assets	9	257
Income from other sources	446	932
Income from investments	727	644
Interest received	533	538
	9,348	9,789
Expenditure	2,331	2,408
Administration and general	2,316	2,331
Interest paid	15	16
Profit before tax	7,017	7,241
Tax	2,616	2,732
Profit after tax	4,401	4,507

£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets	67,255	67,227
Investments	12,160	12,053
Land and buildings	3,981	3,983
Net current assets	5,595	5,414
Current assets	12,821	12,612
Cash	9,007	8,773
Other current assets	3,814	3,1







**SHOPPING 43**  
Rise of the new retail emperors

By PAUL DURMAN  
AND JASON NINSE

SHAREHOLDERS in Airtours, the holiday company, have been urged to vote to reject the report and accounts at Thursday's annual meeting because of a controversial share scheme that potentially is worth at least £3.7 million to the first four directors to benefit.

Pensions & Investments Research Consultants (Pirc), advisers to about £120 billion of pension funds, is angry that Airtours introduced its new long-term incentive plan in

September without seeking shareholders' approval. Pirc said this was "a serious breach of the Greenbury code" on executive pay.

The four Airtours directors were notionally awarded shares only six days before the Stock Exchange made it a requirement for stock market companies to secure their investors' consent before establishing so-called L-tips. Pirc is unhappy at the impression that Airtours rushed the scheme through to escape the new rules.

Anne Simpson, of Pirc, said: "All this could have been debated at the

AGM." She acknowledged that opposing the adoption of the accounts was like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut, but said it was the only way to make clear the extent of investor concern.

Institutions have been big buyers of Airtours shares in the past few months. The shares have more than doubled from their 1996 low of 36p. But one large institutional investor said it would vote against the re-election of the non-executive directors because of its concern over the L-tip. A spokesman said: "We are particularly concerned that the non-

executives have allowed themselves to be a party to something which does not appear to fit in with the Greenbury code."

David Burns, Airtours' secretary, said the company was "rather surprised" at the strong line taken by Pirc "simply because the long-term incentive plan was not put to shareholders for a vote". He also pointed out that the directors control 42 per cent of the company's voting rights.

In a report to its clients, Pirc expresses fears about the influence wielded by David Crossland, financial adviser to Airtours. All

## LINK-UP 45

BP deal that sells gas to Germany



BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

# Airtours share scheme angers pension fund advisers

MONDAY JANUARY 20 1997

**Laker in Branson camp to fight BA**

By HARVEY ELLIOTT  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD BRANSON has made a new attempt to halt the planned British Airways and American Airlines link by summoning long-distance help from Sir Freddie.

A copy of a letter sent by Sir Freddie to John Major is published in four national newspapers today, including *The Times*, pleading for the Prime Minister to block the alliance. The advertisements were paid for by Mr Branson at an estimated £150,000-plus.

Over breakfast in Florida yesterday, Sir Freddie said: "I have not yet seen the advertisement and don't know what is in it. The man behind it is Richard. It sounds, though, as if it is a copy of a letter I wrote, which should have been delivered to the Prime Minister on Friday night."

The monopoly between BA and AA must be stopped. I am the only person who really knows what these people can do to a small competitor. I don't think people understand what happens when you get a monopoly like this. A government monopoly is incompetent but the only thing which is worse is a private monopoly."

Sir Freddie claims in the advertisement that customers on both sides of the Atlantic lost when his *Skytrain* was forced out of business in 1982. He said: "Now BA and American Airlines are wanting to form a monopoly on transatlantic routes, which will allow them again to overwhelm other airlines, put their prices up and force competition out of the marketplace."

With a decision on whether to defer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission expected within ten days, similar advertisements are likely to be placed by Mr Branson, who is convinced the Government does not want to confront the problem before the election and wants it on the backburner with a referral to the MMC.

BA said last night: "All the authorities who have examined the proposed alliance so far have come down in its favour because it will be more competitive and in the interests of the travelling public."

PILOTS' pact, page 45

# Heseltine and Blair pitch for business vote

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government and Labour will clash directly over British business tomorrow when Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, and Tony Blair appear on the same platform in a pre-electoral debate for business votes.

The clash between the two political leaders at the launch of a new and far-reaching study on the future of business in the UK will be the most public argument so far between the parties in their quest for business support.

Mr Heseltine and Mr Blair will argue for their own visions of Britain's industrial and commercial future, setting out in advance of the election the parties' different views of the economy and their relationships with business.

Mr Heseltine has all but forced himself into the programme to launch tomorrow a new analysis of industry in the UK by the Commission on Public Policy and British Business after he became aware that the commission is to support measures that conflict with Conservative policies, including signing the European social chapter, supporting a minimum wage and joining a single currency in Europe. He

is understood to have been irritated by business leaders being seen as supporting key Labour policies in the report from the commission, which was set up by the Institute for Public Policy Research, a left-wing think-tank with close links to Mr Blair.

Though commission members originally wanted Mr Heseltine to speak at the launch of their report in London, they took the view that he would be unlikely to join Mr Blair in doing so. But now, well after the whole launch programme for the report had been arranged, Mr Heseltine has succeeded in being invited to the conference to publish the report.

He will speak immediately after Mr Blair, with only a coffee break separating them. Other speakers include Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, and Tim Melville-Ross, Director-General of the Institute of Directors.

Mr Heseltine will sharply criticise its support for a minimum wage and for abandoning the Government's option from the social chapter.

While the commission's support for these policies will

be guarded and conditional, Mr Heseltine is understood to have contacted directly key business leaders on the commission, questioning them about why they backed proposals which he and the Government explicitly regard as damaging to business.

Other commission members, who regard the unanimous approval of all the commission for the report's 40-plus recommendations as its key strength, see Mr Heseltine's contact with commission members as a clear attempt to influence the presentation of its findings.

Business leaders on the commission include George Simpson, managing director of GEC, and Bob Bauman, chairman of British Aerospace. Although the commission has close links to Labour, it has strayed over the 18 months of its inquiry to retain political neutrality under its chairman, George Bain, principal of London Business School.

Mr Blair is expected to broadly endorse the commission findings, regarding its analysis of industrial and competitive performance as largely correct and its proposals significant for future Labour and government policy.



## Name may sue over shares sale

By JON ASHWORTH

A LLOYD'S of London name is considering legal action against Lloyd's after shares held as security against her debts were mistakenly sold, leaving her facing a potential £22,000 tax bill. Mirabel Cecil had already paid more than £123,000 to settle her debts with Lloyd's and was horrified when the error came to light.

The case highlights the complexities of dispersing funds under the £3.2 billion Lloyd's settlement. Lloyd's has been criticised for delays in making

payments to 12,000 names owed £570 million under the reconstruction and renewal (R&R) plan. About £400 million has been dispersed so far and rumours of errors and duplications abound.

Mrs Cecil, 52, needed to pay £123,461 to "clear the slate" with Lloyd's and instructed her trustee to make the arrangements.

On November 5 last year, she received a letter from Stafford Run-Off Agency, her members' agent, acknowledging receipt of a cheque for £73,461 — the

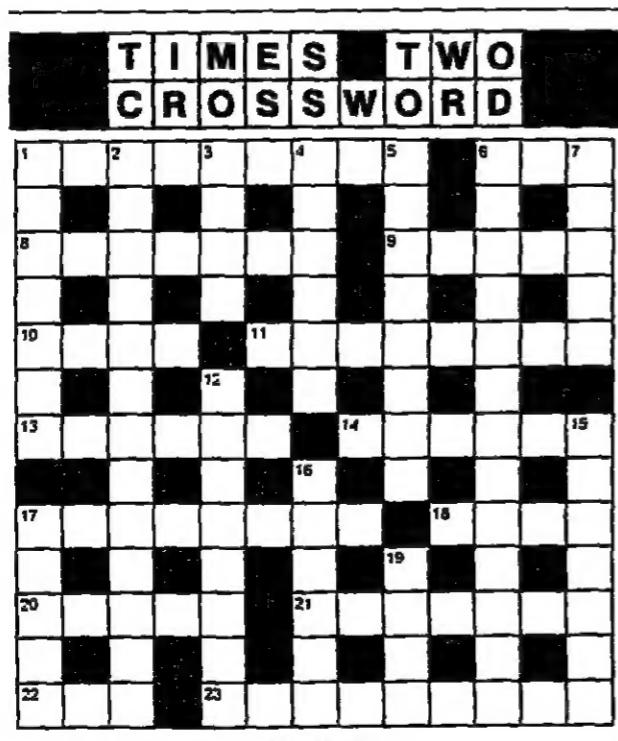
second of two instalments she had paid. She was told that her final balance had been cleared.

Two days later Lloyd's sold Reed International shares worth £71,202 to cover Mrs Cecil's "outstanding liabilities". She subsequently wrote to Ron Sandler, chief executive of Lloyd's, asking that the shares be repurchased and requesting compensation for capital gains liability and any charges incurred. She added: "My view is that the sale took

place because of a breakdown of the system that Lloyd's has set up."

Lloyd's acknowledged that Mrs Cecil's second cheque had cleared on November 8 and conceded that the timing of the share sale was "unfortunate". It said, however, that its action was justified because it had not been aware that the "new money" was on the way.

She faces a potential capital gains tax liability of £22,000. Stafford Run-Off would not comment on the case.



## Horlick's hard line may have cost her up to £1.2m

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT, AND CAROL MIDGLEY

AS Nicola Horlick, the Morgan Grenfell fund manager who quit her £1 million-a-year post on Thursday, called for her reinstatement, the bank said that she had forfeited a bonus that may have been worth as much as £500,000.

Mrs Horlick, who sought to escape the spotlight yesterday by taking her children to visit her brother Christopher, insisted she did not resign from Morgan Grenfell after her suspension last Tuesday.

She said she had been "constructively dismissed" after being suspended over allegations that she tried to poach members of her 30-strong team at Morgan Grenfell to join her at ABN Amro, the Dutch bank. She has consistently denied the allegation.

She added: "The only job I ever wanted was to be managing director of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management. My entire loyalty is to that firm. It

is a good company and I want to be part of it." Mrs Horlick was promoted to the post of managing director on the Friday before her suspension.

Morgan Grenfell, however,

maintained that Mrs Horlick had resigned and in doing so renounced her right to what could have been a handsome bonus based on sparkling performance results achieved

over the past year. A spokesman said: "Bonuses have yet to be finalised for all the bank's staff, but they will be paid at the end of February."

He continued: "Anyone who has left the bank before the bonuses are finalised, for whatever reason, forfeits their right to that bonus payment. This is standard City practice."

Morgan Grenfell is expect-



## Hollinger casts eye over regional press

HOLLINGER International, the media group that owns *The Daily Telegraph* and its Sunday sister, is considering expansion into Britain's regional newspaper sector (Eric Reguly writes).

Dan Colson, deputy chairman of Hollinger and chief executive of the Telegraph group, would not reveal which groups were most attractive to Hollinger, but it is known that it has been following developments at Midland Independent Newspapers.

Hollinger made a £105 million offer for Midland pub-

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Black Horse Life 46.38	Abbey National Life 101.40
Scottish Amicable 48.00	Black Horse Life 101.68
Abbey National Life 48.60	Scottish Amicable 108.00
Scottish Life 58.51	Scottish Life 137.40
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